FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

23 MARCH 1984

Israel

After 11 hours of debate, the Knesset decided by 61 votes to 58 to adopt the Alignment, TAMI, and Hadash bills calling for the dissolution of the Knesset and early elections, Jerusalem radio reported. The bills were transferred to the Knesset Constitution, Law, and Justice Committee which will consolidate them into a draft law and determine the election date, the radio noted. While Likud MK Ehud Olmert said in a Jerusalem television interview that September would be the most "reasonable" time to hold elections, Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres told the Knesset that they should be in May or June because a lengthy electoral campaign would waste money, postpone important economic decisions, and allow the government to promote a "sham election economy." In his speech, broadcast by Jerusalem radio, Peres also affirmed the Alignment's desire to establish a government composed of all forces supporting a "national recovery scheme" and which will not depend on small factions whose bargaining power exceeds their size.

Lebanon

Security Situation — The Progressive Socialist Party (PSP), in a statement broadcast by the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio, said the recent military action against Al-Murabitun was "inevitable" in order to return Beirut to its "honest" people and tonormalize the security situation "which deteriorated recently in West Beirut." Without mentioning Al-Murabitun by name, the statement deplored those who were planning among other things to cause "security disturbances," collect protection money, reopen armed party offices, rally armed men, kidnap Christians, and stir sectarian unrest. A PSP delegation subsequently briefed Shaykh Hasan Khalid, mufti of the Lebanese Republic, on these "plots" and on "the intention to infiltrate some elements that have harmed Beirut in the past," according to a PSP source cited by the radio. The PSP agreed to the mufti's demand that "armed manifestations" be removed shortly in order to allow the internal security forces to assume security responsibilities, the source added. In remarks after the meeting, reported by Beirut radio, the mufti confirmed the agreement to end all armed activity in the streets but called for the return of property seized from Al-Murabitun. As for the latter's clandestine Voice of Arab Lebanon radio, which currently is unheard, the mufti said its situation is being studied.

Meanwhile, PSP and Amal gunmen took over all the Al-Murabitun positions in West Beirut and also seized offices belonging to the Arab Socialist Union, the Communist Action Organization, and the Syrian Social Nationalist Party, according to the Voice of Lebanon. The PSP claimed to have captured some 200 Al-Murabitun members on 22 March, the radio said, but remaining Al-Murabitun gunmen ambushed a PSP vehicle the following day. The Voice of Lebanon revised its estimates of the casualties in the fighting downward to "scores" of dead and wounded and, in a Radio Monte Carlo interview, former Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam spoke only of "two or three killed and some wounded."

In other security developments, clashes continued across the contact lines in and around Beirut, according to the Voice of Lebanon and the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon.

Al-Jumayyil on U.S., Dialogue — President Amin al-Jumayyil told journalists in remarks reported by Beirut radio that the United States "tricked him by making him believe that it had obtained a Syrian pledge to adhere to the 17 May agreement and to withdraw the Syrian forces." Commenting on the outcome of the Lausanne conference in a press interview cited by the Voice of Lebanon, Al-Jumayyil said future meetings of the National Dialogue Conference will involve "new faces and mentalities."

Syria

Although Jerusalem radio's Arabic service cited a London press report that President Hafiz al-Asad suffered a second heart attack and is unconscious, Damascus radio reported that Al-Asad held talks with visiting French philosopher Roger Garaudy.

Arab-U.S. Relations

Egyptian President Husni Mubarak held talks in Cairo with U.S. presidential envoy Donald Rumsfeld, MENA reported. Meanwhile, an Amman radio commentary said that President Reagan's decision to withdraw his plan to supply Jordan and Saudi Arabia with Stinger missiles signals the United States' "final relinquishment" of its Arab friends and its "absolute commitment" to the Israeli side.

Afghanistan

The DRA's High Council of Ulema, in a statement broadcast by Kabul radio, blamed "the servants of America" for a 21 March explosion in a Kabul mosque that killed four people and injured seven others. In response to the bombing, "about 100,000" people participated in a protest march to the U.S. Embassy in Kabul, the radio reported. Meanwhile, a DRA Foreign Ministry statement carried by BAKHTAR denounced President Reagan's "fabricated and instigatory statement on the so-called Afghanistan Day."

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'Arafat Confers With USSR, French Ambassadors

JN221722 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has met with the USSR ambassador in Tunis. The ambassador reiterated the USSR's support for the Palestinian people's struggle under the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The USSR ambassador said that this support will continue to aid in the restoration of the Palestinian people's inalienable and legitimate rights to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of their independent state on their homeland's soil. He added that the USSR considers the Palestinian question a cause of freedom and justice.

Our correspondent has also learned that they discussed the recent developments in the Arab region, particularly those related to the Palestinian question and the Lebanese situation.

Brother leader Abu 'Ammar also met with the French ambassador in Tunis. The talks dealt with the situation of our people's sons under the yoke of the Zionist occupation in the occupied homeland, and the Palestinians' situation in the Lebanese camps. The two sides also reviewed the international situation and developments of the Palestinian and Arab situations.

Brother leader Abu 'Ammar returned to Tunis from Khartoum the night before last following a tour of Jordan, Saudi Arabia, the YAR, and Sudan.

PLO's 'Abbas Says PLO-Syrian Relations Improved

LD231202 Kuwait KUNA in English 1026 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] Kuwait, March 23 (KUNA) — A senior Palestinian official asserted Friday that relations between Syria and the mainstream Palestinian commando movement Fatah have improved.

PLO Executive Committee member, Mahmud 'Abbas told *AL-QABAS* daily newspaper that a Palestinian official is currently in Damascus for talks with Syrian officials to agree on future rapprochement steps but declined to elaborate on the Palestinian official's identity.

'Abbas, who is also Central Committee member of Fatah, led by Yasir 'Arafat, pointed out that a senior Fatah delegation will shortly head for the Syrian capital in the event an agreement was reached on various questions.

AL-QABAS quoted 'Abbas, currently in Baghdad, as saying that the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue has covered several strides for coordination and cooperation.

Meanwhile, the official emphasized the Palestinian revolution's support to Iraq in its war with Iran and highlighted that the PLO has exerted efforts to end that 42 month old war.

The Fatah movement witnessed a serious split early last year which escalated into an armed confrontation late last year in the northern Lebanese city of Tripoli.

The Syrian backing to the Fatah breakaways sparked a serious Syrian-Palestinian dispute which up to date has not healed.

Syria, USSR Reportedly Sign Military Agreement

JN230717 (Clandestine) Palestinian Voice of National Unity in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Damascus — Informed sources in the Syrian capital have said that CPSU Central Committee Politburo [words indistinct] Geydar Aliyev signed a new military protocol during his recent visit to Damascus that included supplying Syria with MIG 29 and MIG 31 aircraft which [words indistinct]. The Americans have supplied the Zionist entity with a new communications network that is connected with the U.S. satellites.

The sources added that the agreement also stipulates equipping Syria militarily so that it will be transformed from the position of defense [words indistinct].

AL-WATAN on Algerian Plan to End Gulf War

GF231017 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 3 Mar 84

[Text] Citing Arab diplomatic sources the Kuwaiti paper *AL-WATAN* today reported that during his recent visit to Syria, Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi proposed a ten-point plan to end the Iraqi-Iranian war. *AL-WATAN* says that Ibrahimi asked Syrian officials to make special efforts to persuade Iran to accept the Algerian plan. The paper says that if the plan crystallizes it will be proposed as an Arab plan enjoying the support of the majority of Arab states.

AL-WATAN said that the Algerian Government had proposed the plan to the Iranian officials who visited Algeria recently, including Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, and that the understanding shown by the Iranian officials encouraged the Algerian Government to dispatch envoys to the region to hold consultations before a new Algerian mediation that may end the war.

Klibi Says Meeting To Precede Afro-Arab Summit

LD222359 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1607 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Tunis, 22 Mar (SPA) — Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi announced that a meeting of Arab and African foreign ministers would be held in May to prepare for the second Arab-African summit conference. He said the summit will be the culmination of work done by both sides at the specialist council level.

In a press conference held with acting OAU Secretary General Peter Onu today, Klibi pointed out that cooperation between the two organizations is regulated and based on apparatus inactive for various reasons. Now that these reasons have been removed, there have been frequent meetings, consultations, and discussions of spheres of cooperation in the economic, political, financial, and cultural fields. He added that preparations are now under way for the seventh session of the permanent committee which will

supervise the progress of cooperation between the two organizations to meet periodically in Addis Ababa and Tunis.

The Arab League secretary general said that the next Arab summit will not be held before the end of 1985. He expressed his pride at the (?response) from friends in the African arena regarding cooperation between the two groups and their support for these cooperative projects, and stressed that efforts will be focused particularly in the field of completing direct develpoment projects. He added that agreement has been reached on cooperation and coordination between the two groups during the next UN conference on refugees in Geneva next July.

UAE Minister Rules Out Oil Price Hike Till 1985

OW191307 Tokyo KYODO in English 1226 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] Tokyo, March 19 KYODO — Mani' al-'Utaybah, minister of petroleum and mineral resources of the United Arab Emirates, said monday demand for oil is improving but ruled out the possibility of a price hike through next year.

In an address at a Tokyo hotel, Al-'Utaybah said world demand for oil is beginning to rise and this he said would improve demand for supplies from the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

A raise of some one million barrels a day in the OPEC's output ceiling is conceivable in this year's fourth quarter if OPEC members keep their current production quotas and prices, he said.

But there is no room for discussing a price hike within the OPEC until the end of 1985, he added.

Referring to trends in oil-consuming countries to hold down crude oil prices, he stressed a protracted price freeze could result in a sharp price increase in the future, disrupting the oil market.

He also pointed out the need for a dialogue between oil- producing and consuming nations not only on short-term issues but on long-term ones, including cooperation in pipeline construction and other major projects.

BAHRAIN

AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ on Lausanne Conference

GF211033 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0830 GMT 21 Mar 84

[From the press review]

[Excerpt] Manama, 21 Mar (WAKH) — The Bahraini newspaper AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ has stressed that the ones to blame for the collapse of the Lausanne conference is the side that went there with the determination to preserve the prevailing situation. The paper described this as being the worst kind of selfishness, because it adheres to sectarianism at the expense of the interest of the country. The paper added that every Arab avidly followed the sessions of the Lebanese National Reconciliation Conference, hoping that this would terminate the 9-year old civil war.

The paper pointed out that the statement issued by the conference seems to be an attempt to buy 6 more months, during which the new elements may emerge and help settle the situation decisively. The paper went on to say that the Lebanese leaders had better come to terms on the constitutional reforms that are necessary to defuse civil war prospects, but it seems that all the proposals made were turned down and all the reconcilatory efforts exerted by the Saudi and Syrian observers failed.

AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ: U.S. 'Punishes' Arabs

GF221657 Manama AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 22 Mar 84 pp 1, 4

[Untitled editorial]

[Text] "U.S. punishment" comes quickly and is never slow when it has to do with the Arab countries, while it is impossible to implement on Israel, despite its many massacres and its numerous human rights violations.

Thus, the U.S. Administration has decided to scrap the missile deal that Jordan and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia had requested, and they were defensive arms at that — while it continues to rush destructive weapons to Israel so that it can seize more Arab land and litter the land with the bodies of those who move to liberate their country from the occupation. In this manner, the United States feeds us words while it feeds Israel bread and bullets which are used to kill Arabs.

The Arabs — primarily Jordan — gave the United States ample opportunity to put pressure on Israel, but the United States has never been on the level. It continues to supply Israel with weapons, while seeing that Israel is grabbing more Arab land, launching barbaric invasions whenever it likes, and killing people like crazy animals!

Despite all that, Washington could not accept the moderate criticism directed to it by the Jordanian king or his call for a just and balanced U.S. policy and his decision not to negotiate directly with Israel. Washington could not accept this, and does not understand that this is within the framework of the Arab-U.S. friendship for which many songs have been sung. After all, this should not be regarded as an Arab crisis, but rather, it is an American crisis — one which shakes the prestige of the United States and its role as a superpower that should be contributing to world peace and security.

Briefs

Cooperation Accord With Pakistan — Islamabad, Mar 17 (WAKH) — Bahrain and Paksitan signed today an agreement for trade technical, economic and industrial cooperation. The agreement also included cooperation in the fields of education and manpower. The agreement was signed by Bahraini Finance and National Economy Undersecretary 'Isa 'Abdallah Abu Rushayd and the Paksitani director general of Economic Affairs Bureau, Ejaz Ahmad Naik. The agreement followed 3 days of talks by the Bahrain-Pakistan joint commission aimed at bolstering relations between the two countries. [Text][Manama WAKH in English 1630 GMT 17 Mar 84 GF]

KUWAIT

U.S. Canceling Missile Deal 'Blow' to Arabs

GF221712 Manama WAKH in English 1610 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Manama, 22 Mar (WAKH) — Kuwait's *AL-WATAN* newspaper said that the Reagan administration's cancellation last night of planned sale of anti-aircraft Stinger missiles to Saudi Arabia and Jordan was another American blow to Arabs.

The paper said the U.S. called off the sales because some Arab leaders had lashed out at the biased American policies in the Middle East and President Reagan wanted to make sure that he does not lose the Jewish votes in the November presidential elections.

AL-WATAN noted that Washington has repeatedly hurt the Arabs but Arabs just kept expressing fear that the unbalanced American Mideast policy was eroding its credibility and ties with friendly Arab states.

It was time that Arabs stop bowing to their archfriend, namely the U.S., and cease accepting its contempt, the paper affirmed.

ARAB TIMES on 'Perpetual Control' Over Mideast

GF211155 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 20 Mar 84 p 6

["Opinion" column by Editor-in-Chief Ahmad al-Jarallah: "Those Who Devise the Overall Scheme of Things"]

[Text] The ever-present question in this part of the world is: "Is what is happening now in the Arab world the result of a carefully planned international conspiracy?"

Some analysts believe that the bombing of Sudan is part of the plan, and carried out by agents who may or may not have known they were being used. The plotters banked on the ignorance of

these agents of the plan itself, and of events in the Arab world, including the Iraq-Iran war. Some analysts suggest that the Iraq-Iran war is another part of the overall plan, whereby Iran is the victim whether it realizes it or not. The plan requires Iran to continue fighting Iraq permanently.

Others believe there is no such plan, and that what is going on now is the result of the stupidity of leaders in the Middle East and the Arab world. This stupidity is continuously scrutinized by international policymakers who monitor these leaderships and their mad actions, which include wasting national wealth, getting involved in border wars or getting involved in useless adventures. These policymakers watch these actions and plan their strategies accordingly, on a daily or weekly basis, to serve the purpose of their flexible strategies and plans.

For example, from their point of view, what is necessary now is to keep the Hormuz Strait open, and for the Iraq-Iran war to continue until Iran's youth has been decimated and the Iranian people wake up and realize what their political leadership is doing to them. What is also important is that Libya does not succeed in any of its misadventures, yet at the same time, gets more involved in them. What is important, as well, is for the Arab world to continue to eschew Egypt, which must always be kept busy with side issues.

We believe in reality that there are no prepared plans, as far as the Middle East is concerned. What we do believe is that there exists a perpetual control in order that interests are adjusted according to the crises created by political madmen in the Arab world and the Middle East.

OMAN

Sultan Qabus Congratulates Khamene'i on Nowruz

GF221540 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1320 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] His Highness Sultan Qabus sent a cable to Iranian President Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Khamene'i on the occasion of the Nowruz. The cable reads as follows:

Your Excellency Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Khamene'i, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Tehran
We take the opportunity of the Iranian people's celebration of the Nowruz to congratulate your excellency and wish you good health, and prosperity and stability to the friendly Iranian people.

[Signed] Qabus ibn Sa'id

Relations With Soviets Said Improving

GF171416 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 16 Mar 84 p 1

[Text] Gulf diplomatic sources have disclosed that relations between the USSR and Oman have begun to come out of the stage of total estrangement between the two countries. The sources said that for the first time in the modern history of the Sultanate of Oman, it extended condolences to Soviet leaders following the death of CPSU General Secretary Andropov.

The sources said this gesture is one of a series of gestures, among which is the fact that Oman has not raised again the issue of Soviet aircraft passing through the airspace of one of the Gulf countries en route to Ethiopia. They said this atmosphere has reflected on relations with the PDRY which enjoys good relations with the Soviet Union.

It should be noted that an Omani delegation returned from Aden recently after holding talks with PDRY officials.

Briefs

Oil Agreement With Swiss Group— Muscat, 18 Mar (WAKH) — The Sultanate of Oman signed an agreement here today granting a concession to explore for oil with the Swiss group of Lunden. The agreement provides for exploring for oil in the offshore area adjacent to Ash-Sharqiyah in Al-Batinah, and east of Masandam. It states that if oil is struck, the Omani Government will get 80 percent of it, while the Swiss group will be given the remaining 20 percent. It should be noted that there are now 11 oil exploration areas in Oman. [Excerpts] [Manama WAKH in Arabic 1320 GMT 18 Mar 84 GF]

PDRY

YSP Chairman Receives Algerian Leader's Message

GF221907 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, has received a written message from his brother Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria and the secretary general of the Algerian National Liberation Front Party.

This came during his meeting at the Secretariat of the Central Committee this afternoon with Mohamed Cherif, [word indistinct] member of the Political Bureau [word indistinct] Standing Secretariat of the Algerian National Liberation Front Party.

During the meeting, a number of issues dealing with mutual interest, and with fraternal, bilateral, and cultural relations between the Algerian and the Yemeni revolutions were discussed.

The Arab and international situations were reviewed within this framework. The situations in the Middle East,Lebanese, and Palestinian arenas were reviewed in particular.

During this meeting, the brother secretary general expressed the YSP and the PDRY revolutionary government's keenness to attain the unity and cohesion of the Arab national liberation movements and the liberation and progressive organizations so as to strengthen their struggle in confronting the imperialist,

Zionist, and reactionary plots which our Arab countries and peoples are facing.

In this regard, he pointed out that the PDRY will continue to be committed to its firm and principled stand in extending support and in maintaining solidarity with the Palestinian people in their struggle to attain their rights to return home, to achieve self-determination, and to establish their independent national state under the leadership of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. He also said that the PDRY will continue to oppose all capitulationist resolutions which are designed to spread imperialist and reactionary domination over the Arab region.

The brother secretary general praised the developing brotherly relations between the two fraternal countries. He affirmed the importance of continuing cooperation and coordination between the YSP and the Algerian National Liberation Front Party and between the PDRY and the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria in all fields in the interest of both peoples and of both the Yemeni and Algerian revolutions.

The meeting was attended by 'Abd al-Ghani 'Abd al-Qadir, member of Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee, and Brother Mohamed Qadir, Algerian ambassador to Aden.

Briefs

Bulgarian Official Arrives — Comrade Emil Chervenyakov, Bulgarian first deputy minister of mineral resources and power, [title as heard] arrived in Aden today on a visit to the PDRY that will last for several days. During the visit, he will sign an agreement on the development of the salt industry and the establishment of chemical units for the salt industry. [Summary] [Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 22 Mar 84 GF]

QATAR

Press Views Lausanne Reconciliation Conference

GF210912 Doha QNA in Arabic 0710 GMT 21 Mar 84

[From the press review]

[Excerpts] Doha, 21 Mar (QNA) — Today's Qatari newspapers commented on the results of the Lebanese National Reconciliation Conference, which concluded its sessions in Lusanne, and on the changes in the alliances among the various sides following the withdrawal of former Lebanese President Sulayman Furanjiyah from the National Salvation Front.

Commenting editorially, the newspaper *AR-RAYAH* described the results of the conference as being fragile. The paper said that the resolutions were neither commensurate with the size of aspirations and hopes of the Lebanese people, nor did they radically solve the problem. The paper described the problem as being like a feather whose tip is dipped in the sand amid gales. The paper expressed its confidence that Lebanon and the Lebanese people will be able to get out of this mess due to Lebanon's historic heritage and dignified Arab and international status.

The newspaper *AL-'ARAB* did not express surprise over the withdrawal of Sulayman Furanjiyah from the National Salvation Front. The paper regarded his presence in the front as basically designed to serve personal interests, which could be to tease the Phalangists or to attain private privileges through the support of the progressive powers. *AL-'ARAB* stressed the importance of having the national progressive powers review their positions toward the position taken by Furanjiyah. The paper demanded that Syria reconsider its relations with Furanjiyah because through Syria he tried to have a distinguished role in all the Lebanese meetings.

SAUDI ARABIA

U.S. Scrapping of Jordan Missile Deal Reported

GF221901 Riyadh Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Announcer-read report]

[Text] White House sources announced yesterday that the U.S. Congress has approved the scrapping of the Stinger missile deal which the United States had intended to make with Jordan. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy noted, in a speech before Congress, that this scrapping was confirmed following the frank criticism which King Husayn of Jordan made about the U.S. Government with regard to its handling of the Middle East crisis. The deal involved 1,613 shoulder-launched anti-aircraft missiles.

On the other hand, U.S. officials announced that the United States will continue to undertake steps suitable to meeting the requirements of Jordan's security, a country which it regards as friendly.

UAE

AL-FAJR Urges Arabs To Reconsider U.S. Ties

GF221615 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 1330 GMT 22 Mar 84

[From press review]

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 22 Mar (WAM) — The UAE newspaper *AL-FAJR* today in its editorial called on the Arab nation to reconsider its dealings with the United States, bearing in mind that it is really its enemy and that the cards needed to solve the Middle East issues, foremost of which is the Palestinian issue, are in latter's hands.

Referring to U.S. President Reagan's decision to scrap the missile deal with Jordan and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the paper emphasized that the moves and activities of the U.S. Government are shackled by the Zionist entity and that U.S. leaders are influenced by the Zionist lobby. The paper asserted that whether Reagan remains in power or a Democrat is elected president, the political line will remain unchanged.

Reviewing the phenomenon of the U.S. Government's subservience to the demands of the Zionist entity and the Zionist lobby, the paper noted that this shows that "the United States is not biased toward the Zionist entity against our countries, but that they are inseparable".

Concluding, *AL-FAJR* accentuated the important fact that "the United States of America no longer has any role in our region because it has lost its prestige as a superpower, which believes in the principles of justice since all of its moves originate from Tel Aviv at the direction of Begin, Shamir, Sharon, and the like".

AL-BAYAN on U.S. Scrapping Missile Deal

GF230748 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0700 GMT 23 Mar 84

[From the press review]

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 23 Mar (WAM) — On the U.S. Administration's withdrawal of the bill to provide Saudi Arabia and Jordan with missiles, the newspaper, published in Dubayy, said that this stand is nothing new.

In its editorial, *AL-BAYAN* said: We, the Arabs, cannot view this stand as a serious development in the U.S. policy because one of the unchanging factors of U.S. policy is to support the Israeli aggression with all its weight, potential and advanced weapons against pan-Arab aspirations and goals, and not to support what is right and just.

AL-BAYAN noted that since it became the leader of the West in the 1940's, the United States has been pursuing a policy hostile to the Arab nation and that no president has broken away from this, except former President Eisenhower when he adopted a courageous stand on the tripartite aggression against Egypt in 1956. It said that the U.S. Administration's stand on the deal to provide missiles to Jordan and Saudi Arabia exposes the U.S. policy and leaves it as it is.

If the U.S. President has the right to go back on the missile deal and violates his country's commitments to its agreements on sales and purchases, he does not have the right from this time on to oppose any Arab move to purchase arms from any source, the paper said.

In conclusion, *AL-BAYAN* called on the Arab countries to reply to President Reagan, "who imagines that with this stand he gains an advantage for his election at the disadvantage of the Arabs," in a way which will make him learn very well that with such policies he is jeopardizing his country's interests, and opening doors in this strategic region which he will be unable to close.

Gary Hart's Election Platform Seen 'Promising'

GF171348 Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 17 Mar 84 p 6

[Editorial: "U.S. 'New Ideas' or More of the Same?"]

[Text] The hegemony which the U.S. exercises over a large part of the world as a result of its economic and military power inevitably makes the internal politics of that country the concern of people beyond its borders. Many, therefore, have been following the primaries for the Democratic presidential nomination with great interest to see what is in store for the next four years — more of the same under Mr Reagan whose economic policies have been hindering the recovery of the world economy and whose gunboat diplomacy has produced Grenada, the Lebanese bombings and the perpetuation of violence in Central America, or a change, however little, under the Democrats. Until a couple of weeks ago the prospects appeared dim, with Mr Reagan having a lead over all the Democrats among whom the drab former vice-president, Mr Walter Mondale, had assumed an apparently unbeatable lead.

All that changed last Tuesday which launched Senator Gary Hart onto the stage. The "super Tuesday" primaries and party caucuses in nine states demolished Mr Mondale as the front-runner while Mr Hart, who inaugurated his winning streak in New Hampshire, continued to sweep the North-East and extended to the South and the West. Moreover, opinion polls indicate that Mr Hart's "new ideas" had captured the imigination of the Americans and he was shown capable of defeating Mr Reagan while Mr Mondale had always trailed behind him. The Democratic presidential nomination has by no means been bagged as yet by Mr Hart, and Mr Mondale has won just enough in the South to keep in the race until the Democratic convention in June. But for the first time it seems that there is a credible and interesting alternative to Mr Reagan's policies.

Mr Reagan himself has been reiterating his "more of the same" manifesto. Continuing with his programme of military build-up, he is proposing a more than six-fold increase in military spending from $305 billion in 1985 to a staggering $1,900 billion in 1990, offering the so-called "Star Wars" defense system which should send shivers down every spine around the world. On the Middle East, in a recent address, he has defined his priorities as thwarting the Russians (which is translated into playing Jordan against Syria), ending the Iran-Iraq war (by intervening in the Gulf if necessary), and guaranteeing the Zionist entity's military superiority against all the Arabs put together (by offering a military grant of $1.4 billion).

The Democrats, especially the two now effectively in the race (together with Mr Jesse Jackson who may well play a very progressive role in defining positively the Democratic platform), do seem to offer a ray of hope for the future. Both are within the liberal tradition. While Mr Mondale will inevitably be linked with the policies of former President Jimmy Carter, and in particular with the Camp David agreement and the Tehran hostage episode, Mr Hart has begun to specify the elements of his platform which are most promising. He is proposing a much more modest growth of military spending which is only a quarter of Mr Reagan's, a non-nuclear defense policy endorsing a U.S.-Soviet nuclear freeze as a top priority, opposing the huge multibillion-dollar aircraft carriers of the kind that bombarded Beirut, scrapping the MX missiles, and building up conventional forces.

He has vowed to remove American troops from the Third World and replace them with aid and technical help. He had called for the withdrawal of the Marines from Beirut long before it was

fashionable. He would halt military aid to El Salvador and covert aid to Nicaraguan rebels. On Hormuz, he would rather use the huge American oil reserves than intervene in the Gulf war which could precipitate a world war. Like any American presidential canditate he has bowed to the Zionist lobby to pledge unswerving support for Israel, but unlike other Democratic candidates (except Mr Jackson), he would recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel only if it was part of an overall Middle East settlement. Mr Hart's foreign policy, therefore, gives much ground for optimism in an improved international situation, but on the Middle East it is necessary to remind him and all other candidates that there cannot be a settlement that does not recognise the legitimate rights of the Palestinians to Palestine with Jerusalem as its capital.

AL-KHALIJ Supports Arab League Mediation

GF211742 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 1330 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] Ash-Shariqah, 21 Mar (WAM) — *AL-KHALIJ* has urged the Arab countries to settle their differences within the framework of the Arab League, and not to resort to other international bodies.

In its editorial, the newspaper said that the Arab League is an Arab organization that was created for the purpose of unifying and gathering the Arab ranks, as its charter states. The task of the league is to remove any clouds that hang in the skies of two or more Arab countries, and it has a fine record, in the past, of settling inter-Arab disputes and silencing the guns of warring brothers. The newspaper asked the Arab states to adhere to theArab League's Charter and not to refer their problems to the United Nations, pointing out the nature of political decisions which motivate the United Nations. The paper reviewed the UN stand on the Palestinian cause, the role of the United States and its defense of Israel at the United Nations.

The newspaper concluded by expressing confidence that the Arab peoples in Egypt, Sudan and Libya will overcome the situation that they may be put in, and which may endanger their future.

YAR

Development Minister Concludes Libya Visit

GF161526 Doha QNA in Arabic 1330 GMT 16 Mar 84

[Text] San'a' (QNA) — Engineer Muhammad al-Junayd, YAR development minister and head of the central organ for development, returned to San'a' today after concluding a visit to Libya, during which he conveyed a message from YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

During this visit, Al-Junayd led the YAR delegation to the annual meeting of the joint YAR-Libyan Coordination Council in charge of economic, cultural and technical cooperation.

U.S. Officials Aided Cancellation of Arms Sale

NC230655 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0525 GMT

23 Mar 84

[From the press review]

[Text] *AL-JUMHURIYAH* today comments on U.S. President Ronald Reagan's decision to cancel the sale of antiaircraft missiles to Saudi Arabia and Jordan. The daily expresses its bewilderment over the statements and explanations given by U.S. officials in this respect. These officials say that recent statements made by King Husayn — the statements in which he accused Washington of a total bias toward Israel — were not particularly helpful in concluding the sales agreement.

The paper also notes the statement by a U.S. spokesman that he does not think such a decision will affect relations between the United States and the moderate Arab states.

Concluding its editorial, *AL-JUMHURIYAH* wonders if the United States really believes that the continuation of its present political line will not affect its relations with the moderate Arab states.

Mubarak Receives U.S. Envoy Donald Rumsfeld

NC221210 Cairo MENA in English 1205 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, March 22 (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak received this afternoon Donald Rumsfeld, presidential envoy to the Middle East.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali, First Foreign Under Secretary Dr Usamah al-Baz who is also the director of President Mubarak's office, the advisor to the US State Department and Nicholas Veliotes, US ambassador here.

'Ali Summarizes Talks

NC221927 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Following today's meeting between President Husni Mubarak and U.S. Envoy Donald Rumsfeld, Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said the discussions dealt with the situation in the Middle East, particularly the Lebanese and Palestinian problems, the results of the Lebanese talks in Lausanne, the Iran-Iraq war, the situation in Sudan, and relations between Egypt and the United States.

Asked whether the talks dealt with the U.S. Administration's suspension of the two arms deals for Jordan and Saudi Arabia, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said: We discussed this issue and we expressed our viewpoint that these countries must obtain that which enables them to defend themselves against various dangers.

Asked whether the discussion dealt with the special resolution to transfer the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, he said: We discussed this topic. We know that the U.S. Administration is exerting great efforts on this matter.

Rumsfeld stated after the meeting that his talks with President Mubarak were useful and that he is pleased.

FRG Economic Minister Warnke Visits Cairo

Meets Mubarak

NC221136 Cairo MENA in English 1121 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, March 22 (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak received here today Juergen Warnke, minister for economic cooperation in the Federal Republic of Germany who arrived here yesterday on a 4-day visit to Egypt.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Wajih Shindi, minister of investment and international cooperation and West German ambassador here Kurt Mueller.

Holds Talks on Cooperation

LD221403 Hamburg DPA in German 1318 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, 22 Mar (DPA) — Europe should take a stronger role in the Near East, according to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. This view was presented by Mubarak on Thursday in Cairo during a talk with Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation Juergen Warnke.

Warnke arrived in Cairo on Wednesday evening for a 1-week visit. He said after the talk that the political situation in the Near East and economic cooperation between the two countries had been discussed. Egyptian Investment Minister Wajih Shindi also took part in the meeting.

On Saturday Warnke intends to sign the agreement on German development aid for the current year comprising DM268 million.

Meets Muhyi ad-Din

NC221333 Cairo MENA in English 1255 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, March 22 (MENA) — Premier Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din conferred here today with Juergen Warnke, west German minister of economic cooperation, on means of increasing the volume of the West German investments in Egypt.

The German minister affirmed, during the meeting, his country's readiness to contribute to the financing of a number of development projects in Egypt, particularly in the fields of fertilizer production, energy and agricultural mechanization.

The prime minister lauded the cordial relations between Egypt and West Germany.

The meeting was attended by Investment and Foreign Cooperation Minister Dr Wajih Shindi and West German Ambassador here Kurt Mueller.

Hart, Mondale Support Of Jerusalem Bill Decried

NC210810 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0525 GMT 21 Mar 84

[From the press review]
[Text] In an editorial headlined "The Arabs and the U.S. Presidential Campaigns," the newspaper *AL-AKHBAR* says: The readiness expressed by Democratic presidential candidates Walter Mondale and Gary Hart to transfer the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem is part of a merciless propaganda campaign during the U.S. presidential elections. The paper adds that the announcement made by the two Democratic candidates is not in favor of the Arabs and disregards principal Arab issues and issues concerning Arab existence. The announcement, *AL-AKHBAR* says, shows the extent of the U.S. politicians' disrespect for the Arab world as a result of Arab division and petty incidents that certain Arabs perpetrate, such as the Libyan air strike on the Sudanese radio station.

Continuing, *AL-AKHBAR* affirms that the two U.S. candidates' positions toward the Arabs would have been quite different if the Arabs were unified and if they agreed on the least of what they have been trying to attain.
AL-AKHBAR calls for Arab coordination and solidarity, and for Arab influence on U.S. policy to make this or that candidate think twice before adopting biased attitudes in favor of the U.S. Jewish lobby and Israel at the expense of important and sensitive Arab issues.

In conclusion, the paper urges Arabs to react immediately and strongly, because such campaign positions as those of Mondale and Hart — even if either has no chance for victory — are an insult to the Arabs' issues and presence. The paper also urges the U.S. candidates to resort to logic and entertain far-sightedness. This was urged so that what the candidates have said would not backfire, would not instill hatred against the United States among hundreds of millions of Arabs and Muslims, and would not pull the United States down into whirlpools much worse than those in which it had already drowned.

Israel Participating in Cairo International Fair

PM221412 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 14 Mar 84 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Cairo International Fair: Arab Flags Disappear, Israeli Flag Up"]

[Text] Israel has for the fourth time participated in the Cairo International Fair. Gid'on Pat, Israeli minister of commerce and industry, attended the opening of the fair last Friday. He told journalists that "our mere presence here to display our products in an Israeli pavillion and our ability to do business with Egypt is self-explanatory because our relations with Egypt have not been affected as a result of Egypt's improvement in its relations with the Arab countries. They are as they have been for the last 3 years."

Meanwhile, the Israeli pavillion stepped up the distribution of leaflets which say: "Since most of the Arab countries did not show any desire to accept the sovereignty and independence of Israel, the smaller state among its neighbors, certain boundaries of Israel have not yet been finally agreed upon. These boundaries extend from Mount Hermon in the north, to the Jordan River in the east, to the Gulf of Eilat in the south, and to the Sinai Desert in the southwest. What Israel lacks in size on the map it makes up for with significance and content."

Asked by journalists if the invitation to the Israeli minister represented a change in Egypt's policy, Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din,prime minister said: "This is a matter of routine because the ministers of all countries participating in the fair have been invited.

On the other hand, observers noted that no Egyptian official has commented on the Israeli ministers' statement or the contents of the leaflets.

It is known that all the Arab countries have been boycotting the fair for 4 years because of Israeli's participation.

WAFD Party Publishes New AL-WAFD newspaper

NC221851 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1835 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, 22 Mar (MENA) — The first issue of the *AL-WAFD* newspaper, the mouthpiece of the New WAFD party, was published today. Mustafa Shardi is editor-in-chief of the 12-page newspaper.

Armed Forces Command Communique No 1,412 - 22 Mar
JN221707 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1640 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Mar (INA) — Iraqi helicopter gunships today carried out successful raids against Iranian units and troop concentrations in the area east of Basra, inflicting on them losses in life and equipment.

Iraqi military Communique No 1,412 issued here today said that the Iranian forces sustained six killed in the Maysan sector and the central sector.

The communique added that yesterday evening and today the Iranian regime shelled Basra, Mandali, Ash-Shihabi, and Darband-i Khan and its suburbs with heavy artillery wounding one civilian, destroying one house, and damaging six houses in Basra; damaging one house in Mandali; wounding one civilian in Darband-i Khan; and destroying one house and damaging several civilian properties in Ash-Shihabi. The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 1,412 issued by the Armed Forces General Command. In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant Armed Forces continue their courageous activities against the forces of the unjust Khomeyniite clique. The results yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. Daring helicopter gunship formations belonging to the Air Force carried out raids today against enemy units, positions, and troop concentrations east of Basra, inflicting on the enemy losses in life and equipment. All our helicopter gunships returned safely to base, praise be to God.

2. One of our forward units shelled enemy infantry positions and weapons emplacements in the area opposite its positions east of Basra, inflicting on the enemy losses in life and equipment. Our forces also captured two enemy elements when one of our forward units clashed with an enemy group which tried to approach its positions the night before yesterday.

3. Four were killed, others wounded, and two hardware stockpiles were destroyed in the Maysan sector.

4. Two were killed, and one infantry position was destroyed in the central sector of the battlefield.

5. The criminals who are ruling in Iran yesterday evening and today shelled Basra, Mandali, Ash-Shihabi, and Darband-i Khan and its suburbs with heavy artillery. As a result of the barbaric enemy shelling one civilian was wounded, one house was destroyed, and six houses were damaged in Basra; one house and one civilian car were damaged in Mandali; one civilian was wounded in Darband-i Khan; and one house was demolished and several civilian properties were damaged in Ash-Shihabi.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, on 22 March 1984

Baghdad Reports Israeli Stand on Stinger Deal
JN221345 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1200 GMT 2 Mar 84

[Text] Occupied Jerusalem — Official Zionist circles today expressed satisfaction with U.S. President Ronald Reagan's decision to withdraw his plan to sell Jordan Stinger antiaircraft missiles.

These circles said that the decision is a positive sign that calls for satisfaction. They noted that the Zionist entity opposes the sale of weapons to any Arab country.

It is worth noting that the White House declared yesterday that this decision, which also includes cancelling the sale of similar missiles to Saudi Arabia, was made according to a recommendation by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, U.S. Presidential Adviser for National Security Robert McFarlane, and congressional leaders.

Commentary Assails U.S. on Arms Sale Decision

Dictated By Israeli 'Strategy'

JN221806 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1616 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] The U.S. President's decision to withdraw from Congress his plan to supply Jordan and Saudi Arabia with Stinger missiles means the United State's final relinquishment of its Arab friends, and its absolute commitment to the Israeli side in the present equation of the Middle East conflict. The White House spokesman expressed his belief yesterday, through the Voice of America, that the cancellation of the arms deal with Jordan and Saudi Arabia will have negative effects on his country's relations with the moderate Arab countries.

It is regretful and sad that U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz imagines that His Majesty King Husayn has spoiled the opportunities for the success of the Reagan Middle East plan, because all indications show that Jordan was the only party that did not oppose this plan. Israel was the first party that rejected the plan part and parcel. It is also regretful and sad that the secretary of state of a superpower — the United States — imagines that King Husayn has directed a setback to his own opportunities to obtain Stinger missiles from Washington. It is very sad and regretful that Shultz imagines this matter in this primitive manner, knowing that Jordan had requested these missiles 3 years before the first open and specific criticism which Jordan's leadership leveled against the U.S. Middle East policy.

We have always and are still hoping to preserve our international friendships, particularly with the United States, out of our faith in the values and principles that are derived from our cultural and humanitarian heritage. We also hope that our friends, foremost of which is the United States, will maintain the principles and values on whose basis it was established and became one of today's superpowers.[as heard] It is really regretful that the U.S. Administration discards the well-known humanitarian and international values and principles and tries to play bully with Jordan. Although the U.S. Administration's step is a direct measure to harm Jordan's defensive power, as was stated by the Jordanian Government's official spokesman yesterday, we will not allow this step or any similar step to harm our dignity or to discourage us from seeking the means of strength and power by which we can maintain our honor, existence, values, principles, and a safe future of our coming generations.

We have kept and are still keeping the ties of friendship and cooperation with the United States, although this recent U.S. stand was dictated by the Israel's aggressive strategy. In light of this stand, we can only express our deep regret and move toward re-evaluating this friendship, which tries to encroach on Jordan's security and honor. Being aware of these facts, we hope that the Arab countries will comprehend the serious aspects of this delicate stage through which the Middle East problem is currently passing. We hope they will define the pan-Arab stands and commitments toward the present and future requirements and developments of this stage in order to deprive Israel, with the United States behind it, of dealing separately with any party in the Arab arena, which is an attempt to drive another wedge in the Arab world making no one safe from its infection and danger.

We have been, still are, and will remain loyal and faithful to the principles of our nation and the message of the great Arab revolution. We will also continue to be guided in our march with the glow of heroism and sacrifice in defense of our existence, large Arab homeland, and just causes.

Policy Termed Blackmail

JN221352 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 22 Mar 84 pp 1, 19

[Editorial: "Open Blackmail"]

[Text] President Reagan's decision not to supply Jordan and Saudi Arabia with antiaircraft missile networks has corroborated our conviction that U.S. policy in the region is reluctant to abandon blackmail in any of its acts. This blackmail is clear in the justification given for President Reagan's decision — namely, that the president has made a deal with Congress stipulating that he will abandon his move to supply Jordan and Saudi Arabia with missiles in return for Congress' abandoning the proposal that calls for transferring the U.S. Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem.

Thus, the crisis of values and principles that besets U.S. policy has surfaced again. Despite the fact that the U.S. Congress and Administration are perfectly aware that Jerusalem is an occupied Arab territory which cannot be annexed to Israel by force in accordance with international norms and conventions and in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 242; Consequently the U.S. Embassy cannot be transferred to Jerusalem; and despite the fact that both Congress and the administration are aware that it is the administration and not Congress that decides foreign policy, including the location of the U.S. Embassy in Israel, in accordance with the U.S. Constitution. They did not hesitate to use this issue as a card to blackmail Jordan and Saudi Arabia, justify abandoning the missile deal, and show that this is a necessary move to prevent transferring the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem.

Stemming from this precedence, such a proposal will be presented to Congress in the future so that the administration can abandon other stands and promises in order to stop discussion of it in Congress. Thus, U.S. policy has transformed the issue of transferring the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem into a sword of Damocles over the Arab states and an instrument of blackmail that can be used at will.

Jordan, which revealed the reality of U.S. policy and affirmed its categorical rejection of any hegemony or blackmail, has declared more than once that it will not bow its head or neglect supplying its Army with its needs in order to enable it to perform its duty. It should be noted here that the U.S. refusal to supply Jordan with the missiles will not discourage Jordan from seeking other supply sources to ensure its Army's needs and to strengthen its capabilities and potentials.

The bad reality of U.S. policy in the region is a fact that must be faced with courage, lest the Arabs go panting after a mirage. A time will come when the American people will realize that the U.S. policy-makers are responsible for the present faded U.S. image, which they have created by their own hands, and that they are also responsible for its consequences.

Decision Will Harm Relations
JN221244 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 22 Mar 84 pp 1, 25

[Editorial: "The Results of Betting,"]

[Text] The U.S. Administration's decision to cancel the Stinger missile shipment to Jordan is a result of U.S. policy's blind bias toward the Zionist lobby and Israel.

As we express our deep regret at this step which may harm our country's ability to defend its security, we sympathize with this stand which proves that this superpower is subservient to Israel's desires.

After all the bitter facts related to the Arab-U.S. relations which His Majesty King Husayn affirmed in the past few days, the U.S. Administration was expected to proceed with its submission to the Zionist pressures, especially since the presidential election campaign has begun, and the rivals to reach the White House or to say in it have begun to compete in order to win the Jewish voters, the circles of influence, and the influential Zionist groups.

Hence, President Reagan's unfair decision can only mean complete submission to the Zionist blackmail, and complete surrender to Israel's declared stands. This situation will harm the Arab-U.S. relations which have reached their lowest level because of the U.S. Administration's bias toward Israel.

President Reagan's decision and its timing is another dangerous U.S. development toward the Arab nation. The decision not only entrenched continued U.S. bias toward Israel or the loss of U.S. credibility in the Arab nation, but also the U.S. Administration's submission to the Zionist pressures which, as we are fully aware, do not stop at canceling the arms shipment to Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and the other Arab countries.
Our nation which faces such hostility and disavowal of its security and interests by the U.S. Administration, must rise to the level of the challenges which we are facing at all levels.

Jordan is fully aware that the exposed U.S. attempt to harm its security and defense capabilities is the outcome of the Jordanian leadership's determination to adhere to its pan-Arab pledges, its honorable support for the Palestinian rights, and its rejection of abandoning and disavowing this right.

Hence, the Arabs who are facing a historic test must support Jordan, and its firm pan-Arab stands which did not submit to any blackmail regardless of its source, and did not weaken before threats. Since it is our duty to remain faithful to our nation, cause, and just rights foremost of which are the Palestinian people's rights, our Arab nation must support our stands and help us in all spheres so that the banner will remain high.

U.S. Mideast Policy Lacks Clear Line
JN191912 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1620 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] Throughout the past 17 years, we believed that the United States' position was not an ally of Israel or a mediator, but a superpower which respects its commitments and adheres to its principles. With time, we have discovered that the United States has really been an ally of Israel at the expense of its credibility and interests in the wide Arab world.

Today, we do not see any obvious U.S. policy aimed at solving the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the United States does not have the ability to follow a clear line toward the deteriorating situation in the Middle East.

Throughout the past 17 years, the United States lavished shining promises on the Arabs, but it behaved in a way that exploited the Arabs' friendship and good intentions, employing them for the benefit of the Israeli expansionist aggression.

Our belief in the U.S.-Arab friendship stemmed from our genuine values, principles, and civilization. We hoped that the United States would fulfill its promises. However, we found out that the situation was completely different. As we placed our confidence in our strong friendship with the United States, the United States strengthened its relations and alliances with Israel. After this long time, we discovered that the results of this friendship were employed for the benefit of the Israeli aggression against the Arab nation and the Palestine cause.

Did the United States exploit our belief in its role to find a solution to the crisis so as to encourage Israel to humiliate us, or does it want in its special understanding to keep true friendship and be false at the same time?

The entire world knows that we supported all efforts and initiatives aimed at achieving peace in the region. We hoped that international principles and values would win over selfishness and personal interests which would make Israel the pivot of the Middle East, and an armed bastion in the arsenal of the U.S. interests.

In his statements to *THE NEW YORK TIMES* and the CBS television network, His Majesty King Husayn clarified many facts before U.S. and international public opinion, and announced the fall of U.S. credibility in the Arab world. This is because the hopes pinned on the United States as a superpower have been exposed to storms: The United States did not respect its commitments and promises and undermined its commitment to its principles which have become mere ink on paper. His Majesty King Husayn faced with bitterness the fact that 17 years after the Israeli expansionist aggression in the world, the United States does not have clear stand nor the ability to adopt a clear line toward the region's problems.

Jordan, which has always been faithful to its world friends, will not be harmed if it continues to seek more friends even at the expense of the most faithful friend, as long as this friend does not

know how to respect its commitments, fulfill its promises, or adhere to its principles.

We were not deceived — nobody deceived us. Everything has a price in this world. Nothing prevents us from paying the bill for our friendship with the United States, if we have to. However, we will maintain our dignity as a people who still adhere to a world that respects commitments, abides by principles, and fulfills promises.

Husayn, 'Arafat To Make Joint Tour

JN221232 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 22 Mar 84 p 28

[Text] Palestinian sources have said that His Majesty King Husayn and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will shortly make a joint tour to the USSR, PRC, France, Britain, and a number of European countries in order to explain the joint Jordanian-Palestinian concept concerning the basis on which a Palestinian solution can be found. The sources added that 'Arafat will arrive in Amman shortly to coordinate with the Jordanian Government about this tour.

Al-Jumayyil Views Current Issues, Conference

Discusses 17 May Accord

NC221743 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] President Amin al-Jumayyil has declared that the abolishment of political sectarianism is a thorny and difficult job.

In a press statement to the Paris-based magazine *AL-MUSTAQBAL* to be published tomorrow, the president called on those who fear that the abolishment would make one faction enjoy more rights than the others to forget their fears. He said the nations which are worth living should not be captive to catastrophies. He stressed the need for clear consciences so that we will be able to rebuild and unify the homeland in 2 years. President al-Jumayyil said: We are the victim of a plot that began in 1975. We still have **ample** time to stop [word indistinct].

On Syrian support, President al-Jumayyil said: President al-Asad has promised me support to Lebanon, that Syria covets no regional ambitions in Lebanon, that Syria is earnest in wanting to see Lebanon and its south liberated, and that Syria will withdraw its army once this liberation is effected. President al-Jumayyil said that Syria will support the national unity government and it will accept no victory and no vanquished in Lebanon.

The president said: We have abrogated the 17 May accord when Israel declined to implement the withdrawals. Subsequently, we had to work out a new security formula. We will work for an increase in UN troops in the south, who will assist our newly formed army to safeguard our sovereignty and territory.

Reviews Work of Conference

NC221652 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil has told the Paris-based newspaper *AL-KHAWATIR* that the future meetings of the dialogue conference will involve new faces and mentalities, adding that those who were chosen to attend the Lausanne meetings were imposed upon the conference.

AL-KHAWATIR quoted the president as saying: During the conference proceedings, I deemed it fit to tender my resignation, but the conferees refused even to discuss that. Regarding the conference, President al-Jumayyil said: I am optimistic. We cannot say that the conference has failed, though it did not achieve the Lebanese hopes. But we reached an agreement on a cease-fire.

Touching on the political topics, President al-Jumayyil said: These will be tackled immediately upon my return to Beirut. He said that the Saudi and Syrian positions were positive. The president said that the 17 May accord was concluded after the Israeli army reached B'abda and had the approval and agreement of all sides, particularly the United States, which was in close contact with Lebanon and Syria. When the parties concerned began giving up their commitments, he abrogated the accord.

On the French role in Lebanon, President al-Jumayyil said: France is playing a normal role in Lebanon. We have historical and humanitarian relations with France, and we have continuing contacts with the French officials.

Al-Jumayyil Telephones Fahd, Al-Asad 22 Mar

NC221701 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] It has been learned that President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil has phoned Saudi King Fahd and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, and that he discussed with them the developments since the Lausanne conference. President al-Jumayyil might visit Riyadh as well as Damascus if President al-Asad's health condition permits.

Locally, President al-Jumayyil contacted Prime Minister al-Wazzan. They agreed to hold a meeting as soon as possible, depending on the security situation in West Beirut. It has also been learned that the Cabinet might possibly convene before Wednesday to discuss the new security and political developments.

Pierre al-Jumayyil on President's Role at Talks

NC221338 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1245 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Phalangist Party leader Pierre al-Jumayyil today said that what happened in Lausanne is very important. In an extraordinary meeting with the [Phalangist] Political Bureau, he lauded the president's position and conduct while chairing the Lausanne session. He also praised the president's cooperation with [former] President Camille Sham'un and with the other parties belonging to the same side.

The Phalangist Party leader stressed that Lebanon's identity is something to be determined by history and geography scholars. Any fundamental changes [in this identity] should pass through the Chamber of Deputies — which represents all the Lebanese.

Pierre al-Jumayyil also denied the possibility that Syrian deterrent forces will return to some Lebanese areas.

Junblatt 'Pessimistic;' Warns of Renewed Fighting

For London PRESS ASSOCIATION reportage on the private visit to the United Kingdom by Druze leader Walid Junblatt, including his meeting with Foreign Office Minister Richard Luce, a Foreign Office statement according to which Junblatt is "pessimistic" regarding Lebanon's future, and Junblatt's warnings about possible renewed fighting, see the United Kingdom section of the 23 March Western Europe *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

Franjiyah on Israeli Presence, Policies

GF181118 Doha QNA in Arabic 1000 GMT 18 Mar 84

[Text] Doha, 18 Mar (QNA) — Mr Sulayman Franjiyah, former Lebanese president, has expressed his belief that Israel's presence in southern Lebanon will not last long because it is facing a war which it cannot win. Also, he said, the national resistance in the south, which is responsible for abrogating the 17 May agreement, will force Israel to withdraw without any gains. However, in his press statement which was published here today, Mr Franjiyah said Israel's withdrawal will not be easy and that it will continue its maneuvers, trickery and repression until it accomplishes certain goals.

Asked about Lebanon's future in the wake of the abrogation of the 17 May agreement, Franjiyah said: The Israeli era in Lebanon has ended and the Lebanese era in Lebanon has begun. The solid nucleus has been formed and the climb toward the homeland has started. There is no doubt that we shall face major difficulties as we proceed along the way to force the Israeli remains out of our country. Franjiyah added that it is unlikely that Israel will carry out a military operation in order to impede any movement toward solving Lebanon's problem. He said: "Had it been able to do that, it would have done so prior to the abrogation decision and not afterwards."

Franjiyah said that abrogating the 17 May agreement means in one way or another the abrogation of the Camp David agreement, and that the abrogation which has taken place confirms the great fact that Lebanon — just like any other Arab country — cannot be separated from the Arab world, because this would be like separating from oneself. He pointed out that Lebanon exercised self-rejection since the beginning and neither the efforts of the Americans nor the Israelis or those who are associated with them succeeded in destroying the Lebanese spirit.

LE MONDE Interviews Amal's Nabih Birri

PM221140 Paris LE MONDE in French 22 Mar 84 p 6

[Interview with Amal leader Nabih Birri by Eric Rouleau, in Lausanne — date not given]

[Text] "The issue dearest to our hearts," Mr Birri explained, "is the liberation of the southern part of the country. We want reinforcements for the men in the UN Interim Force [UNIFIL] in Lebanon — in which France already has a contingent — and also the extension of that force's authority so that it can play a more effective role. We hope that Paris will take initiatives in this direction at the United Nations, and will thus help defend our southern border with Israel."

LE MONDE: Do you think that would be enough to reassure Israel, which is demanding guarantees for the security of its northern border?

Birri: It is the lamb which should be protected, not the wolf. It is we who need guarantees, not Israel, which is looking for excuses not to withdraw its troops. Everybody know that there are no longer any Palestinian fedayeen in southern Lebanon, and that, in our own interest, we will ensure that they do not return. A painful page in Lebanon's history has been turned forever. [answer ends]

Referring to the possibility of a change of government in Jerusalem, the Amal leader continued:
"Israel is beginning to pay the political price of the invasion of Lebanon in June 1982. That will become obvious during the forthcoming (Israeli) elections. Like the French during the Algerian war, and like the Americans after Vietnam, the Israelis will no longer want a government which dragged them into a costly and futile military adventure."

Mr Birri will also discuss the Gulf war with Mr Mitterrand [during a meeting scheduled for 21 March] to express the hope that France might adopt a "balanced attitude" toward it. "In the general interest," he added, "your government ought to normalize its relations with Tehran."

LE MONDE: Nonetheless, it is well known that your own relations with the Islamic Republic are not as good as is claimed...

Birri: It is true that Tehran severed all relations with the Amal Movement 2 years ago, for reasons which have nothing to do with us. Our country's Shi'ites, who are first and foremost Lebanese, nonetheless respect Imam Khomeyni as one of the greatest religious leaders of our time, and thus cannot be indifferent to the situation in Iran. [answer ends]

Mr Birri was not prepared to say more. But it is known from other sources that Tehran criticizes Amal mainly for its secular orientation. Our interlocutor explained: "Amal is neither a religious movement nor a confessional party; quite the opposite. Its charter drawn up in 1975 by 180 Lebanese intellectuals, mostly Christians, calls precisely for the abolition of the confessional system and equal rights for all citizens without distinction. Imam Musa Sadr, the movement's founder, constantly emphasized that his movement was designed to defend all the underprivileged.

LE MONDE: By advocating the establishment of a nonconfessional political system are you not running the risk of being overtaken by your religious leaders?

Birri: No, because they cannot afford to be more royalist than the king, more Muslim than Imam Musa Sadr (of whom Mr Birri was one of the main disciples and the main adviser before his disappearance in 1978). Moreover, we consider the feelings of both Muslims and Christians when we say that a secular state would not necessarily mean that we would impose civil weddings. A law should be passed to give the citizens the opportunity to have a religious wedding too. In any case, the civil war was not caused by the personal status of the Lebanese but by a political system which feeds the antagonism which exists among communities. That is why we think that the vast majority of Lebanese, Christians or Muslims want its abolition. Only those who benefit from confessionalism, who remain attached to anachronistic concepts which date from the 40's, are trying to defend the status quo at the cost of a torrent of blood.

French Forces Reported Ready To Leave Beirut

NC231138 Paris AFP in English 1110 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] Beirut, March 23 (AFP) — France will announce a withdrawal date for its Multinational Force contingent within 48 hours, French Ambassador Fernand Wibaux said here today.

In a statement to the press, Mr Wibaux said France "is about to withdraw its contingent from Beirut and to ensure its replacement by other elements." Mr Wibaux said he had conferred with Lebanese Foreign Ministry official Fu'ad at-Turk on French action to reinforce the UNIFIL (United Nations Interim Force) contingent in south Lebanon.

The possibility of sending observers "to relieve our contingent" in Beirut was under study, Mr Wibaux added. The 1,200 soldiers in the French contingent are the only representatives of the Multinational Force left in Beirut following the withdrawal of the United States, Italy and Britain. France, Mr Wibaux said, had agreed to the principle of observers to supervise a cease-fire in Beirut, to be placed at the disposal of the Lebanese Government which would decide where to station them.

Amal-Socialist Clashes Continue in Beirut

Shelling in City, Mountains

NC221722 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] The security situation in West Beirut had hardly calmed down after Amal forces and the socialists managed to control things when the situation flared up on the contact lines in Beirut, the southern suburb and the mountain. Shells landed in 'Ayn ar-Rummanah, Al-Ashrafiyah, and Al-Hazimiyah. Limited clashes occurred on the Sinnin-'Ayn ad-Dilbah axis during which intermittent shells fell on the Sinnin area [words indistinct] in 'Ayn ar-Rummanah, wounding one citizen. There were also exchanges from heavy weapons and mortars along the Red Shoe axis. The Sfayr axis is the scene of clashes with machine guns.

Shells fell on the Furn ash-Shubbak circle. One shell fell on Camille Sham'un boulevard. No casualties have been reported. Several shells also fell on Al-Hazimiayh at 1645. Army positions in the mountain area were hit by intermittent shelling this afternoon. The shelling quickly intensified on the 'Aytat-Suq al-Gharb axis where fierce clashes are now taking place.

Amal Storms 'Leftist' Positions

NC221339 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1245 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Besides storming the [Independent Nasirite Movement] Al-Murabitun's positions, the Amal Movement's gunmen have also stormed all the leftist parties' positions in West Beirut, disarmed its gunmen and closed them. This took place in several areas, particularly at the headquarters of the Arab Socialist Union in Qasqa and 'Ayn al-Muraysah.

Amal Controls Beirut Positions

NC221643 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] The Amal Movement and the Socialists have managed to control all the Al-Murabitun [Independent Nasirite Movement] positions in West Beirut. It appears that Al-Murabitun are not the only target. Amal and the Progressive Socialist Party's gunmen have taken control of the headquarters of the Arab Socialist Union in Qasqas quarter, the premises of the Communist Action Organization, and the headquarters of the Syrian nationalists in Ra's an-Nab' and Al-Khandaq al-Ghamiq.

The warning, which Amal and the Socialists addressed to the Palestinians to lay down their arms or their two camps [Sabra and Shatila] would be forcibly occupied, expires at 1800 tonight. Amal and the Socialists have completely surrounded the Sabra and Shatila camps.

According to reports received by the Voice of Lebanon, the Al-Murabitun planted mines in 'Abd an-Nasir's mosque. The mine exploded when Socialist gunmen entered the mosque, killing 3 gunmen and wounding 13 others including civilians. The reports add that the Socialists have brought down additional forces from the mountain and sent them to the capital. It is very difficult to assess the size of the human losses. Preliminary reports, however, speak of scores of dead and wounded, including six dead and four wounded who were moved to the American University Hospital.

Amal gunmen ambushed a Palestinian patrol in Burj al-Barajinah killing five of its members. Gunmen raided houses and detained persons according to names on lists. Approximately 100 detainees have been transferred to Al-Awza'i. Their fate is unknown. According to other reports, Amal and Socialist gunmen raided the Al-Barbir hospital and detained some gunmen who sought refuge there.

A UPI photographer was seriously wounded while taking pictures of the fighting in West Beirut. He was moved to the American University Hospital where he underwent emergency surgery.

The Al-Barbir Road has been reopened for traffic. It has been observed that the Al-Murabitun flag has been removed from the Fu'ad al-Awwal bridge and been replaced by the Socialists' flag and a photograph of Imam Musa as-Sadr.

Socialist Party officials said approximately 200 Al-Murabitun members, including some Palestinians who carried Al-Murabitun identity cards, have been taken captive.

Fighting in Cornich al-Mazra'ah

NC230920 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] Fierce clashes are being fought in the Corniche al-Mazra'ah area between the Socialists and the [Independent Nasirite Movement] Al-Murabitun with artillery, rockets and machine guns. Fire broke out in the Al-Hilal building, while

reports say that some security forces' personnel are missing and were trapped there.

Our reporter also says that tension prevails on the Saqiyat al-Janzir area.

Efforts To 'Restore Calm'

NC231028 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1000 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] Yesterday, the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] held contacts with Hasan Khalid, mufti of the republic; the former prime ministers; the deputies; the ministers; and the political and spiritual leaders. The PSP handed over responsibility for keeping order in West Beirut to the Internal Security Forces — a matter which was decided upon during the meeting last night in Shaykh Hasan Khalid's residence.

Meanwhile, the PSP released some of its prisoners. Following their release, these prisoners renewed their attempts to sow sedition and start trouble in the Abu Shakir area. Some of them started sniping from rooftops in an attempt to paralyze the normal course of life, which was restored yesterday afternoon. They did this in accordance with their eager plans to compromise the dignity of Beirut and its citizens. Consequently, the PSP forces dealt with the sources of fire in the appropriate way, in order to silence them and restore calm and stability to the city.

Contacts are now underway between the PSP leadership, the Amal Movement, Mufti Khalid, [former] Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam, Shaykh Muhammad 'Ali al-Juzu, Shaykh 'Abd al-Hafiz Qasim, and the former prime ministers.

It should be noted that the reports transmitted by some radios are exaggerated. The citizens are requested not to heed them. The situation is still the same and nothing has changed.

Al-Murabitun Issues Statement on Beirut Fighting

NC231111 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] In a statement addressed to the inhabitants of Beirut, the Al-Murabitun say that Israel has returned to West Beirut in the cloak of struggler Kamal Junblatt. The Al-Murabitun statement says: We, in turn, have resumed fighting to recover nationalist Beirut. The Al-Murabitun's fighting today is a struggle against the Israelis and our battle is a battle of whether or not Lebanon should exist. The Al-Murabitun statement continues: The Israelis deceived us and entered Beirut in the cloak of the Socialists — those who attacked the Christian villages in the mountain.

In their statement to the inhabitants of Beirut, the Al-Murabitun say they killed four Israeli officers, and the [the aim of] the battle has started to become clear.

Socialists Justify West Beirut Developments

Statement Issued

NC221512 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] To clarify the developments in West Beirut, the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] issued an important statement saying:

A pause was necessary to return to normalcy in view of the security situation which deteriorated recently in West Beirut; in view of the spreading of the wave of chaos, permitting the violation of houses, establishments and public and private property; and in view of the attempts to bring back the atmosphere of the hateful internal fighting on the national arena. This pause was essential also to adopt a stand which would deny the enemies of the national and Islamic ranks the opportunity to bring back the atmosphere of massacring to our wounded areas as a result of the external shelling and the internal plotting. We have tried to establish this stand by various methods. We have tried to avoid for this honest area — the area of Beirut, which has given us a great deal — everything which could disturb the serenity of its internal security that began to loom after the glorious February uprising.

In view of these attempts, which intensified lately causing some security and social disturbances from which all of us suffered and put up with, and after exhausting all political attempts and efforts, a military action was inevitable. Out of our commitment to national Beirut and its security, and to the course of its true functionaries, it was essential to carry out — in full partnership and in implementation of a joint decision with these functionaries — a military and political action which would return Beirut to its people, the honest people in it, and to its national functionaries.

The PSP statement adds: We do not seek to justify what has happened inasmuch as we seek to explain it to national Beirut and to the Lebanese public opinion which we love and to which we owe much. We only seek to disclose the plan which some intended to implement in Beirut at the expense of Beirut and its people. The plan aimed at the following:

1. To cause security disturbances in Beirut harmful to the Lebanese national action and its accomplishments, and threatening the security stability which saw light after the glorious 6 February uprising.

2. To set up armed checkpoints in front of Al-Barbir hospital to collect protection money and fees and to justify the continued existence of the Phalangist Al-Barabara checkpoint;

3. To reopen the armed partisan offices and to reintroduce the hateful past practices of these offices — cells — in violation of the security decisions taken in this regard;

4. To seek security explosions serving no national or Islamic political interests;

5. To empty the national Islamic areas from the Christians by kidnapping citizens on a religious basis only. This violates all our

Islamic commitments providing for the defense of Christians and Muslims alike;

6. To rally armed men closely connected with the period of lukewarmness which prevailed for some time between the honest forces in Beirut and its inhabitants;

7. To stir sectarian and regional, and sometimes ideological seditions knowing that what has been achieved in Beirut is of a general national and Islamic character;

8. To secretely prepare military operations against some honest national Islamic forces;

9. To open fire and attempt to confuse the Beirut arena for no clear reason other than spreading the wave of security chaos;

10. To refrain from adopting a clear stand on the regime and its practices, and precisely on Amin al-Jumayyil who is responsible for pushing the country into this dangerous slide;

11. To refrain from adopting a clear stand on the factional army's organized destruction of the areas in the mountain, West Beirut, and southern suburbs.

These were the aims of the plan. They were known to us from the beginning. Although we in the party and in the Islamic street provided a lot of room for political negotiations, we found no attentive ears among those who have gone far in their errors and in their straying from the right path.

The PSP statement concludes: The issue does not affect us alone as a party, but also affects Beirut's accomplishments and its people. This is what prompted the carrying out of this operation in full participation with Beirut and its functionaries. Despite the victims who fell in this operation and despite our appreciation of every drop of blood spilled, we assert that this final cure, which we want to mark the end of the destruction of Beirut, its destiny and property, was inevitable.

Secretariat Claims Statement 'Distorted'

NC231140 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1100 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] The Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] General Secretariat has issued the following statement:

Some media sources circulated a report saying PSP General Secretary Fu'ad Salman stressed that the PSP conducted the recent operation in [West] Beirut so that Palestinians do not return to the capital. The PSP emphasizes that Fu'ad Salman never issued any statement to this effect. The PSP also calls attention to the fact that Lebanese Television Channel 11 distorted the PSP statement issued yesterday by adding some paragraphs of its own which contradict what the PSP said in its statement.

The General Secretariat added that the PSP is fully committed to Beirut and to the security of its inhabitants — the security which was violated this morning by some suspects. The statement concluded: We also stress that we are in the process of handling this situation in a radical and final way through consultations and cooperation with Shaykh Hasan Khalid, the mufti of the republic, and with the honest political leaders of Beirut.

'Suspect' Media Campaigns Scored

NC231124 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1028 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] The suspect plan to undermine security and stability in patriotic [West] Beirut has been unmasked.

There is a media campaign going on with the intent of exaggerating events and deluding people. This campaign started yesterday when Radio Monte Carlo attributed false statements to some of the officials of the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP]. Television's Channel 11 was also instigating sedition and broadcasting false news last night. The same attitude was shown this morning by the Phalangist radio [not further identified] when it transmitted a string of false news reports aimed at sabotage and deception.

Faced with such a situation, all citizens are requested to be fully alert as to the background of this media campaign, which is slanted to favor the interests of the enemies of national security and those who hate to see West Beirut enjoying real and continued security and stability.

Having said this, we remind everyone that the PSP will firmly confront these media lies and all suspect campaigns.

Socialists Discuss Situation With Mufti Khalid

NC221912 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] A delegation from the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] visited His Eminence Shaykh Hasan Khalid, the mufti of the Lebanese Republic, at his residence.

The visit came within the framework of the consultations and contacts held by the PSP leadership with the various leaders and political and nationalist forces to explain what happened in Beirut today. A meeting was held, attended by — in addition to his eminence Mufti Khalid — by [former] Prime Minister Rashid as-Sulh; Deputies Zaki Mazbudi, Nazim al-Qadiri, and Talal al-Mir'ibi; as well as Fu'ad Salman, Dr Khalil Ahmad Khalil and Dr Ibrahim Muhsin from the PSP. The meeting was also attended by a delegation from the Permanent Bureau of the Druze Institutions and some senior officers of the Internal Security Forces. The discussion during the meeting dealt with the various security affairs in Beirut and ways to control security in it.

After the meeting, a PSP source stated the following: We called on his eminence the mufti in his capacity as an authority for all the Muslims in Lebanon. We explained to him what happened today. We also briefed him on the plots which were being hatched against the residents of Beirut to arouse sectarian prejudices and cause sectarian fighting as well as the intention to infiltrate some elements that have harmed Beirut in the past.

The source added: The meeting was fruitful and positive. His eminence showed complete understanding and care for the unity of the national and Islamic rank. We agreed with him on several measures that could restore security and peace to Beirut.

It has been learned that Mufti Khalid demanded the removal of armed manifestations. The PSP reply was agreeable. The party expressed a readiness to implement any suggestion by his eminence. The source affirmed that the armed manifestations will be removed soon, and that the Internal Security Forces will assume security responsibilities in Beirut. He explained that today's move must not be taken as an attempt to circumvent the role of the Internal Security Forces and the pertinent security authorities, because the party is not thinking of replacing the Internal Security Forces. It only desires, through today's move, to strengthen their role and their hold on the security situation.

With regard to the Al-Barbir roadblock, the source explained that the party will remain there to prevent the levying of protection money and other violations of the rights of the citizens until the Internal Security Forces assume their duties.

Khalid Views Beirut Developments

NC221616 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Speaking at a special meeting at his house to about 200 Al-Murabitun [Independent Nasirite Movement] members, Mufti Hasan Khalidsaid:

I am aware, to a large extent, of the reasons which prompted you to come here. You know that we are facing a serious situation vis-a-vis Lebanon as a whole. Today we have entered a new path which we have refused and continue to refuse to enter. We are fully committed to the fact that our main battle is with Israel in the south, and everywhere where its forces are present.

In the meantime, we do not permit a battle between one Muslim and another, or for it to be conducted by hands which everyone knows are dirty. I assure you that I knew nothing. We are required to be vigilant and wise to maintain our unity. I want you to realize that as long as we are the masters of our will, we will not permit that dealings with the status quo should be at the expense of our dignity, pride, and interests, or those of the Islamic group.

Mufti Khalid added: We know why the blow has been dealt, what has preceded it and what will follow it, where it was planned, and who planned all these things. The developments which took place in West Beirut are a puzzle to the Sunnite leaders who ask about the dimensions of what is happening. [Former] Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam contacted Mufti Khalid and Tawfiq Sultan. He called for stopping the battles and preventing the conflict from developing into ideological fighting.

Salam sources say that what is happening is very grave. Sunnite sources say that Al-Murabitun do not represent the majority of the Muslims, although they include [words indistinct] and Kurds in their ranks. The Sunnite popular resistance considers what has taken place in West Beirut as proof of the dimensions of the plot being implemented by Amal and the Junblattis to dominate this area.

Further Comments From Khalid

NC222038 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] During the meeting which was held at his home today, Mufti Hasan Khalid demanded that Al-Murabitun be given back their radio station, expressing readiness to supervise it personally. He also demanded that the equipment looted from the Red Crescent be returned. Mufti Khalid said that Al-Murabitun are still here, saying: We are endeavoring to bring about the unity of sects, and not to incite sectarian seditions.

Mufti Khalid was cited as saying that it was the Socialists who made the situation flare up today.

Sa'ib Salam Interviewed on Beirut Fighting

JN221909 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1720 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Interview with former Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam by unidentified radio reporter on 22 March; place not given — recorded]

[Text] [Unidentified reporter] Your Excellency, the bloody events in Beirut today have surprised everybody. My first question is about the situation there this afternoon. Has it completely abated or will there be repercussions?

[Sa'ib Salam] I can say that to a large extent, the situation is quiet. We, however, completely denounce what has taken place because from the beginning we have always been opposed to violence, to those who perpetrate it, and also against fighting one another. We regret, and, in fact, it pains us to see that there were victims. What is important is not for me to denounce these incidents but to say that we must practice wisdom and patience to put out the fire. This can only be done if all the armed elements withdraw from all parts of Beirut.

We have always called for the internal security forces to assume responsibility for security in the capital. This society cannot do without the forces of legitimacy. I am confident that the internal security forces, even in their present state, are capable of protecting the tranquility of the peaceful citizens in Beirut whose sons have demonstrated through past events that they are eager to maintain their cohesion and unity of ranks.

[Reporter] Your Excellency, is the number of casualties as high as reported by the news agencies?

[Salam] It is not that high. But what has taken place is enough. There are some killed and some wounded. According to the information I have, there are two or three killed and some wounded. But this pains me because I am against this method and I am against killing. However, the situation is quiet to some extent, and I hope it will continue to be so. The Lebanese people have had enough killing, victims and destruction. They are against all those who become involved in fighting. Since we have

agreed in Lausanne to end the fighting, withdraw heavy weapons and remove all armed manifestations, I hope that we will quickly implement this through all the armed elements, and those responsible for them without any exceptions.

[Reporter] Your Excellency, some analysts say or believe that what took place in West Beirut is the first practical result of the Lausanne conference. Some even consider that what took place today had been directly or indirectly agreed on in Lausanne?

[Salam] There is absolutely no truth in this. I was in Lausanne and I have always been against violence. I cannot accept that some say that this has been agreed on. We could not have agreed on escalating the fighting. We agreed on halting the fighting, and removing heavy weapons and armed manifestations from all places.

[Reporter] Your Excellency, some say that what took place in West Beirut today may have had the Sunni community as a target. What is your reply?

[Salam] This is not true. Of course, the Sunnis, who are the sons of Beirut and its owners, and who from the beginning had not participated in the violence and the fighting, denounce all this and do not want such things to take place in their country. But it took place. However, we hope that this will not create any hard feelings and sensitivities among the communities that will be exploited by saboteurs. From this premise, I called at the Lausanne conference for the need to simultaneously suspend media campaigns and the fighting because I believe that the media campaigns have played a large part in escalating the fighting. It is time we exercise wisdom and ponder matters. I was not able today to listen to the radios, but I was told that there are voices which try to provoke matters. The inhabitants of Beirut today seek to appease the situation.

[Reporter] Thank you, Your Excellency for all these clarifications...

[Salam, interrupting] I wish that the officials in charge of information would stop using the terms Sunni, Druze, Shi'ite, Christian and Muslim. All this serves the objectives of those who want to pursue fighting and violence.

[Reporter] Perhaps some information organs have exaggerated, but what took place in Lausanne has highlighted that the differences in Lebanon are sectarian differences.

[Salam] This may be true. There are differences on matters between one party and the other. As you know, I attended the Geneva conference and the Lausanne conference. My principle has been that of a cordial dialogue — a dialogue to achieve understanding. The first words I said in Geneva had been that we are entering the dialogue of understanding. We must understand the various opinions that were enunciated in Lausanne. We must deal with them wisely, and through them we must achieve an understanding. We will achieve this, God willing.

[Reporter] Your Excellency, thank you and we will meet with you tomorrow in the "It Happened Tomorrow" program which will be devoted to the results of the Lausanne conference.

Israeli Patrol Target of Explosion in South

NC221516 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] At 1430 this afternoon, an explosion occurred on the Sidon-Jazzin Road near the electricity authority building. The target was a patrol of the Israeli enemy.

An Israeli force arrived immediately and cut the roads to the site of the incident. Ambulances arrived at the scene a few minutes after the daring operation.

Information Ministry Director's Office Rifled

NC171613 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Mar 84

[Excerpt] At approximately midnight yesterday, five unidentified gunmen broke into the office of Manas Mansur, director general of the Information Ministry, at the ministry's office in the As-Sana'i' quarter. They opened safes, scattered their contents, destroyed the president's photograph and some paintings, and spread some papers and information tapes on the floor. On learning about the incident this morning, Information and Justice Minister Roger Shaykhani asked the general prosecution to act quickly and conduct the necessary investigations.

Immediately after being told by his secretary in Beirut about the incident, Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri contacted Dr Ayyub Humayyid, the movement's representative at the security committee, and asked him to follow up the incident and adopt all necessary measures. He denounced the incident and demanded the prevention of any similar incidents at any official or unofficial place or establishment.

TISHRIN Views Ties With USSR, U.S. Policy

PM230914 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 17 Mar 84 p 3

['Ali as-Siwan article: "Syrian-Soviet Relations: Firm Friendship in the Course of Struggle for Socialism and Against Zionism and Imperialism"]

[Excerpts] Comrade Geydar Aliyev, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, visited Syria in response to an official invitation 10 to 13 March 1984.

President Hafiz al-Asad received Aliyev twice, on 11 and 12 March. Mr Aliyev's recent visit to Syria is of augmented importance for two reasons:

First, the visit took place at the beginning of the era of the new general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, Konstantin Chernenko. Second, it took place during the first days of the new stage of Syrian confrontation of the Zionist-U.S. plans against the Arab nation, the stage that began with the abrogation of the Lebanese-Israeli agreement on 5 March. The two factors are linked.

Despite the fact that Soviet policy does not change with changes of individuals, it is quite understood that the new Soviet leader should begin his new tasks with high-level consultations with the leaders of friendly countries, particularly those with regional and international standing. In this regard we can observe a visit similar to that of Aliyev's to Damascus, namely Soviet Defense Minister Dimitriy Ustinov's visit to New Delhi — India being leader of the Nonaligned Movement and, like Syria, linked by a treaty of friendship and cooperation with the Soviet Union.

Aliyev's visit to Syria — the link between the two factors — supports Syria in reaping the fruits of the victory its strategy achieved by toppling the 17 May Lebanese-Israeli agreement to continue the counterattack on Camp David, backbone of the imperialist conspiracy against the Arab nation.

We in Syria, while celebrating with great joy the progress achieved by our higher strategy of resisting the imperialist conspiracy against our great Arab homeland, cannot but highly appreciate the Soviet Union's support for our struggle to strengthen and develop our national economy, the basis of our independent political decisionmaking, and to achieve victory for our nation's central cause, the Palestinian problem.

The reaction to Aliyev's Syrian visit was evident in the campaign President Reagan launched against Syria because it resists every agreement between any Arab country and Israel.

Reagan attached particular importance to "Syria's increasing strength." Obviously Syria's strength is increasing not only militarily but also politically in inverse proportion to the credibility of the reactionary Arab regimes wagering on Camp David's Egypt and the U.S. conspiracy against the Arabs.

After Syria's triumph in preventing Lebanon from being hitched to Israel's bandwagon, Reagan was forced to go back on all he said about his commitments to those who have been wagering on a U.S. role in solving the Lebanese crisis. Why? Precisely because Syria, in the person of vice president of the republic [Khaddam] was present at the second session of the Lebanese national dialogue in Lausanne which is being held on the basis of an Arab, not a Zionist or American option. For this reason Reagan was compelled to define three obectives for U.S. policy, none of which has anything to do with Lebanon: Confronting the Soviets, securing the flow of Arab oil, and promoting Camp David's chances.

Reagan has "forgotten" Lebanon because he realizes that his police there failed due to what he called "Syria's increasing strength," since he knows well that Syria is lying in wait for him, particularly resisting his third objective of promoting the chances of Camp David. Reagan has been aware of the firm Syrian principle which President Hafiz al-Asad summed up by saying, "We will not allow the emergence of another As-Sadat on our borders." Therefore Reagan showed his fear for King Husayn by saying, "Jordan, like Israel, is subjected to confrontation with Syria and facing a military threat."

Obviously, Reagan, who arbitrarily confuses the constituents of "Syria's increasing strength" politically and militarily, will have no scruples about pushing King Husayn to sound the alarm against Syria and not, of course, Israel.

Falsifications and confusion are the means to which the imperialists and their lackeys in our homeland resort in order to provide cover for imperialist plundering of all the Arab homeland's wealth and not just the oil, of which Reagan wishes a continued safe flow.

The advocates of imperialism and those who echo their statements among those who wager on imperialism and Zionism reiterate malicious words aimed at justifying their siding with the enemies of the nation. They equate Washington and Moscow on the grounds that both the Soviet Union and the United States are superpowers. This equation is arbitarily applied in different ways. One of these is the claim that the Soviet Union has "designs" merely because it is a superpower. Their evidence of these designs is that Soviet support for Syria is some kind of a counter to U.S. support for Israel. Their falsification goes as far as to even divide the Arab world into two parts, one inclined toward Moscow and the other, led by Israel, inclined toward Washington.

Aliyev's visit to Syria was a great occasion for these people to once again raise their ugly voices about equating the Russians with the Americans.

King Husayn, who in his interview with Jordanian television on 7 March "condemned" the U.S. policy in the Middle East, was only making a smokescreen to cover his stand in order to gain some sort of credibility for later talk about "Syria's tutelage to the Soviets" after Aliyev's visit.

But the screen that the king wanted to create soon dispersed when one week later Reagan equated Israel and the king's regime in confronting "Syria's increasing strength."

The joint statement issued at the end of Mr Aliyev's visit to Damascus provides a correction of the distorted picture created by King Husayn's 7 March statements "denouncing" the United States.

The king is preparing himself to join the conspiratorial U.S. plan against the Arabs armed with a mandate from 'Arafat in the name of the Palestinian people to commit a high treason.

In this regard the king's "attack" on the United States is one of the necessities of public deception by which 'Arafat will be able to justify his involvement with the king to conspire against the Palestinian people.

Therfore, the joint statement has pulled the ground from underneath 'Arafat in his exploitation of Palestinian legitimacy. The statement said: "Syria and the Soviet Union see the need to preserve the unity of the Palestinian resistance movement and the early overcoming of internal disputes within the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, on the basis of progressive nationalism."

This categorical statement thwarts 'Arafat's machinations to collaborate with the proponents of Camp David and to violate the PNC resolutions because the joint Syrian-Soviet view on this matter is inspired by the stand of the Palestinian people inside and outside the country toward 'Arafat's deviations.

The joint Syrian-Soviet statement issued at the end of Mr Aliyev's visit stresses the desire of both sides to continue to strengthen relations in all the fields.

In order to understand the significance of this desire we should recall what struggler Hafiz al-Asad said at the meeting with Aliyev on 12 March: "We will not allow the march of progress in the area to be reversed. It is the people's will that their will in this area too will triumph."

In other words, the time when there was some sort of alienation between the Arabs and the Soviet Union in order to deprive this nation of active Soviet support in the struggle against imperialist blackmail and for the sake of national causes, particularly the Palestinian problem, has gone forever. Nobody can any longer block out the sun with a sieve or undermine the solid edifice of Arab-Soviet friendship.

AL-BA'TH Warns Against 'Comprehensive' War in Region

JN230903 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0745 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] Damascus, 23 Mar (SANA) — In today's editorial, *AL-BA'TH* asserts that current evidence shows Israel is preparing for a comprehensive war, and that the events accompanying the U.S. moves assert the narrow courses of the U.S. diplomacy in the Middle East will lead to dangers.

AL-BA'TH notes the uproar created over supplying Jordan with U.S. missiles, while Jordan is opposing the formation of a Jordanian RDF. The paper also notes the timing of U.S. envoy Rumsfeld's tour of the Middle East while the U.S. forces are crossing the Arab borders of Egypt and Sudan, and the Western fleets are wandering in the Gulf waters and the Arabian Sea.

AL-BA'TH says: In Arab Syria, we believe that the United States will not accept its failure in Lebanon and that it has enough reserve plans to reply to this failure or to at least cover it. Israel knows that Syria adopts a firm stand to defend Lebanon and to liberate the Golan and all the usurped Arab soil.The United States and Israel also know that Syria is defending its rights which are rejected by both of them. Consequently, the stands are as contradictory as good and evil.

AL-BA'TH continues: Whether it is a U.S. or Israeli option, it will be difficult, and will have unlimited consequences. The adversary which the United States will stand against is Syria which is confident in its stand and firmness. Syria also believes that war is war, and that the ones who create this war will be its fuel.

AL-BA'TH concludes: The war for which Shultz and Shamir are planning will not have limited geographical dimensions nor limited consequences. This is because Syria is not alone, and because it defends truth against falsehood.

Arab Solidarity Against U.S., Israel Urged

JN221501 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Syria has adhered to the Arab decision-making as much as the masses of the Arab nation have adhered to their right to defend their heritage and existence. This is why Arab Syria has raised the slogan of Arab solidarity as the first step on the correct path to create an Arab reality strongly committed to the masses' consciousness and willpower.

When the Arabs achieved the minimum level of solidarity and unity of rank, as in the October liberation war, the results were clear in the battlefield and in the anxiety that gripped the Western world which joined forces with Israel and defended its ambitions at the expense of the Arab nation. The Israeli invasion of Lebanon would not have taken place were it not for the fact that the United States had become a partner with certain Arab regimes in all its decisions, just as it is the direct partner of Israel in all its aggressions. Recent events and experiences have also proven that U.S. disregard for Arab feelings would not have reached such a level were it not for the fact that certain Arabs have abandoned the minimum level of agreement under the slogan of Arab solidarity.

Now that events have proven those who have wagered on the United States are the first to get an American slap in the face, we do not think that their feeling of shame will be strong enough. Reconsideration of relations helps in the preservation of national honor, and recognition of the fact that the United States is the ally of Israel and the enemy of the Arabs will ensure better self-protection for those who seek protection under the U.S. canopy and use this protection as an excuse to avoid their pan-Arab duty.

Furthermore, is not Israel, under the existing situation, the direct enemy of the Arabs? Can those who are under the U.S. canopy deny that Israel is occupying Arab territory with U.S. support? So how can the United States be their enemy and protector at the same time?

Events and evidence have proven that Syria, which has adhered to the logic of Arab solidarity that responds to pan-Arab aspirations, has been able to check the conspiratorial and capitulatory march because its firm adherence to its principles has made it a popular and influential force in the Arabs' battle against their enemies. In light of this fact, and as struggler leader Hafiz al-Asad has emphasized, Syria will continue to adhere to the slogan of Arab solidarity in its revolutionary sense. It will not hesitate to defend this slogan as the Arab means to liberate the land, assert the pan-Arab willpower, and establish that the Arab decisionmaking is the only decisionmaking in the region.

Those who have reneged from solidarity and unity of rank have seen how U.S. diplomacy has handled them one by one and hurt their dignity. They have also seen how the United States has slighted even their very existence. Thus, it has become a threat and a danger to them when they thought it protected and supported them. Such a reality, now felt by the Jordanian regime before anyone else, and witnessed by every Arab wherever he may be, reaffirms that the Arab has no other path but the Arab path, and that the aggressors can only be deterred by adhering to the logic of the masses and by breaking away from the U.S. chain, which in itself is the chain of world Zionism on the Arab hand.

Al-Asad Receives French Intellectual 22 Mar

JN221628 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] At 1200 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received French philosopher Roger Garaudy. During the meeting, the discussion focused on Zionism as a racist and aggressive ideology, the methods it uses to mislead public opinion, and ways to confront it.

Khaddam Confers With Lebanese Personages

JN230715 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] Damascus — Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam last night received 'Asim Qansuh, regional secretary of the Ba'th Party in Lebanon; George Hawi, secretary general of the Lebanese Communist Party; and Lebanese Deputy Najah Wakim. Talks during the meeting revolved around the Lebanese situation.

Prime Minister Al-Kasm Receives Iranian Minister

JN221402 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] At 1300 today, Prime Minister Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm received Morteza Nabavi, Iranian minister of post, telegraph, and telephone. The meeting was attended by Communications Minister Ra'fat al-Kurdi and the Iranian charge d'affaires in Damascus.

At the beginning of the meeting, Nabavi conveyed to Dr al-Kasm Iranian Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi's best wishes and congratulations on the formation of the new government. He also briefed the prime minister on the results of the talks he is holding in Damascus to promote cooperation and the exchange of expertise in the telecommunications sphere between both countries confronting U.S. imperialism and Zionism and their schemes in the region. They also stressed the need to promote relations between the two friendly countries.

Dr al-Kasm asked the Iranian minister to convey his best wishes to the Iranian prime minister.

QNA Reports Upcoming Syrian-Lebanese Contacts

GF221726 Doha QNA in Arabic 1230 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Damascus, 22 Mar (QNA) — The QNA correspondent in Damascus has learned from diplomatic sources that the Syrian capital will witness in the next few days intensive diplomatic meetings between Syrian officials and the sides of the Lebanese dialogue to implement the Lausanne conference resolutions in the Lebanese arena.

A Syrian diplomatic source emphasized today that attaining national reconciliation in Lebanon is a strategic goal for Syria despite all the impediments. The source went on to say that Syria regards the resolutions nailed down in the two dialogue conferences held in Geneva and Lausanne as positive and a good start in providing momentum to the sides concerned to continue their contacts and dialogue to reach solutions on the disputed matters, solutions which all sides will approve.

The QNA correspondent in Damascus added that despite the efforts undertaken by Syria with the aim of hammering out solutions for all the issues discussed during the conference, it did not present its own draft plan. It was satisfied with making attempts to draw the views of all the sides closer, to approving what was forged, and to leaving the disrupted matters to be discussed in contacts by the various sides.

The observers in Damascus believe that Syria will stress during its upcoming contacts the need to ensure that all the concerned Lebanese sides adhere to the resolutions reached and the need to continue meetings and consultations with the aim of continuing the discussion of the other issues reflecting a gap in the views of the Lebanese sides.

The diplomatic sources in Damascus believe that the efforts to be exerted by Syria may lead to launching a Syrian plan — after examining the views of the various sides — that will constitute a compromise solution to the issues not agreed upon.

Statement on Jordanian Detainees in Amman Prison
JN221506 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1340 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Damascus, 22 Mar (SANA) — The Jordanian nationalist movement has called on all nationalists, democrats, and believers in human rights to interfere and take action in order to release the Jordanian and Palestinian political detainees from Al-Mahattah prison in Amman.

In a statement it issued today, the Jordanian nationalist movement affirmed that the Jordanian regime's authorities are currently detaining and torturing scores of strugglers in both the Jordanian nationalist movement and the Palestinian resistance movement because of their brave stand against Zionist arrogance, their rejection of capitulatory plans in the region, and their adherence to the PLO.

The statement described the acts of torture and detainment being carried out by the Jordanian regime's authorities in Al-Mahattah prison as hideous. It appealed to all nationalists and men of honor to openly demand the release of the nationalist detainees.

The statement noted that these detainees have observed their second hunger strike this year, and that their health has become jeopardized.

A list containing the names of 114 political detainees who have been on a hunger strike since the beginning of this month was attacked to this statement.

Reportage on Knesset Debate on Early Elections

Bills Approved 61-58

TA222215 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2200 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] The elections for the 11th Knesset will be held early. After 11 hours of debate, the Knesset decided this evening, by a majority of votes, to adopt the bills submitted by the Alignment, TAMI and HADASH factions. In favor of these bills were 61 of the Knesset members, including all opposition members, the TAMI faction members and Knesset Members Mordekhay Ben-Porat and Yitzhaq Berman. Opposed to the bills were 58 coalition members. All Knesset members, except for former Prime Minister Menahem Begin, were present. Our correspondent notes that the bills to dissolve the Knesset and hold early elections were passed in a preliminary reading and were transferred to the Knesset Constitution, Law and Justice Committee for consolidating them into a draft law and also determining the date of elections.

Shamir Reaction

TA222217 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2205 GMT 22 Mar 84

["Excerpt" of interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer — recorded, date and place not given]

[Text] [Shamir] We must honor Knesset resolutions, and it has decided, so its decision will be implemented. The bills passed in the preliminary reading will have to undergo the accepted, routine legal process. The coalition did not want to launch an election campaign these days that could be most hazardous to the Cabinet's attempt to heal the economy. We had thought to hold elections some months later, after the initial attempts to improve the economy are summed up, and when we think that an election campaign cannot lead to any serious damage to the economy. Yet the Knesset made up its mind, with a majority — admittedly a small majority, but still a majority — so when the process ends and a date for the elections is set, we will join the election campaign, and approach the voter with an explanation of our position and a request that he give us his confidence.

Shamir To Continue Duties

TA230642 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Shim'on Schiffer "last night" in the prime minister's office in Jerusalem]

[Excerpt] [Schiffer] Yesterday the prime minister met with TAMI leader Aharon Abu-Hatzera, who tried to mediate and find an agreed-upon date, as early as yesterday, for the elections, agreed upon between the Likud and the Alignment, but he did not succeed in this and I asked Yitzhaq Shamir whether he was not disappointed with TAMI:

[Begin Shamir recording] I cannot speak about disappointments or the contrary. That is its position. That is a fact. [end recording]

[Schiffer] This morning Yitzhaq Shamir is to meet with Donald Rumsfeld, the U.S. President's envoy, and today it will be business as usual, as it were. But the question is, will the government now follow a different policy. Will the IDF leave Lebanon more rapidly? Will there be an elections economy? To this, Yitzhaq Shamir answered:

[Begin Shamir recording] We will look after the country's interests as though no elections had been spoken about today. [end recording]

Peres Knesset Speech

TA221621 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1508 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Speech by Alignment leader MK Shim'on Peres at the beginning of the Knesset session debating the dissolution of the Knesset and holding early elections]

[Text] Mr Speaker, honorable Knesset: The elections for the 10th Knesset were held in June 1981. The Likud list was headed by Mr Menahem Begin. The finance minister-designate was Yoram Aridor, and the imminent defense minister was Ari'el Sharon. Mr Begin stressed the cultivation of peace with Egypt and the establishment of peace with Lebanon. Mr Aridor promised a wonder economy. Mr Sharon conceived of a great plan regarding Lebanon.

Today, after 2 and 1/2 years, none of these three key figures serves in his previous position, and none of these three plans exists any longer. The peace with Egypt has been frozen, and the personages in the current substitute government do not show enthusiasm regarding the peace treaty with Egypt, nor belief in its existence. Israel's economy is on the threshold of disaster. Inflation has taken over the country instead of the government controlling it. External loans have grown by billions of dollars, while internal loans have grown by trillions of shekels. The currency has become threadbare, agriculture is in distress, industry is under seige, and the great plan has proven to be a total flop. Public norms in the spheres of law and order are collapsing in front of our eyes, and the people are asked, so to speak, to sink into apathy and put up with helplessness and loss of direction.

Knesset Members, what is called for under these circumstances, in a democratic and parliamentary regime? It is not only we but also you Likud members who must appeal to the people again. You should present to the people not the existing team, which is in place thanks to the team chosen before, but a team which should be elected by its own right. You should present to the people economic and political plans which address the developing situation and not the false hopes which have to come to naught. You and we should be seeking from the people an explicit mandate for a team, a platform, and the real time span necessary for the team to operate and carry out a policy that will heal the country.

It is clear that a government which depends on small parties, and on what is taking place inside them, a government which depends on the mood of one traveller on a plane which has not landed yet, will be unable to make real decisions in order to save the economy, to fortify security, to renew immigration, and to rescue Israel from the circle of wars which repeat themselves. We will tell the people: This is our plan. We will ask them to grant us a mandate and the possibility of setting up a large government which will reflect the desire for unity among the people, a government composed of all forces which will agree to a national recovery scheme, and which will not rely on small factions whose bargaining power exceeds their size and representation.

Mr Speaker, I do not know the results of today's vote. However, one thing is clear: Half of the Knesset members have reached the conclusion that there is no way out of appealing to the people, appealing to the people soon for a clear decision. In theory, there is a choice between elections in May or June or October or November this year. Whatever comes to pass, the election campaign has already begun, and the real question facing the Knesset is how long this campaign will last, and what its real cost will be. If the elections are delayed to October or November, we will go through 6 or 7 months of election campaigning which will cause a disastrous waste of the people's funds. The fateful and responsible economic decisions will be put off, and instead a wasteful and sham election economy will occur. The labor issues in the economy will be exacerbated, and the state budget — that has not been consolidated yet — will not exist at all. You know that there is no real chance to improve the state of the economy in such a 7-month period. It will only be possible to sweep the problems under the rug and apply makeup to the economy at the expense of an even more dangerous exacerbation of the situation in the post-election era.

Mr Prime Minister and Cabinet members, you have served for 6 months already. Ever since you entered your posts, inflation has doubled and reached 300 to 400 percent. It is now going to take a mad jump as a result of the deficit already known to exist in the state budget, and as a result of the expected redemption of savings plans and government bonds which stand at 1.2 trillion shekels. The restraining measures you promised died before they were born.

The situation in Lebanon has deteriorated even further, and uncertainty is enveloping all parts of the country. In order to heal the economy, there are four prerequisites that do not exist now: 1) to receive a mandate from the people to cope with the economic problems as they really are; 2) to form a government on a wide national, parliamentary and social basis in order to free ourselves from the whims and splintering of factions; 3) a breathing space in order to save industry, agriculture and tourism, and to provide jobs for 200,000 young citizens who will be added to the labor force of the economy in the next 4 years; 4) shaping and implementing a new political-economic program which is different from that which has failed.

Mr Speaker, we believe that inflation can be overcome. Until the mad inflation started 7 years ago, Professor Patenkin [a Hebrew University economics professor] noted that the inflation rate in the State of Israel throughout its existence, until 7 years ago, did not exceed an average of 6 percent per year. We believe that it is possible, after the elections, to form a wide-based, strong government which will represent the majority of the people. We believe that a social pact can be reached with all socioeconomic elements in Israel. We believe that a new economy can be set up, based on the most modern achievements of science and technology; an economy of sophisticated productivity in industry and agriculture; an economy which will draw its power from human motivation and be based on social justice; an economy which will give a great chance to the development towns and to the poor neighborhoods in the cities; and an economy which will restore the pioneering role to the working settlement sector.

We believe it is possible to put an end to the heavy costs of our involvement in Lebanon, while trying to and after guaranteeing peace for the Galilee. We believe that Israel can and should march forward solidly on its two feet, with self-reliance from the security point of view, and true peace for us and our neighbors from the point of view of political wisdom.

Knesset Members, it is not tricks that are necessary today, but true decisions which will honor this house; it is not a gain of a number of weeks that will save the country, but an entire term of renewed trust and self-confidence. Let us appeal to the people. Let us conduct an economical, fair, and honorable election campaign, without slander, without exaggeration, and without unnecessary rhetoric. Let us allow the people to choose the alternative they want, to choose a united Knesset and a government with the capability of functioning.

Mr Speaker, we propose that a decision be made on dissolving the present Knesset and holding elections for the 11th Knesset in May or June this year.

Appeals for Quick Election

TA221829 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1748 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Speech by Alignment leader MK Shim'on Peres in reply to comments made during the Knesset session on holding early elections]

[Text] Mr Speaker, I am exercising my right to answer the remarks heard in this hall. First, on the issue of the vote, I would like to tell the coalition members that it is unheard of that there is a majority in the Knesset for a roll-call vote, and use is artificially made of a majority [in the Knesset House Committee] to foil the real Knesset majority. Practically speaking, according to the Knesset regulations, 20 Knesset members are allowed to ask for an open, roll-call vote, and the Knesset House Committee cannot deny them this right. We have already submitted a request by tens of Knesset members for a roll-call vote, and therefore the question is not really open. I suggest that we refrain from tricks that do not enhance the Knesset's honor.

Now to the issue at stake: Both Likud MK Ehud Olmert and Likud MK Moshe Qatzav in fact have admitted there is a Knesset majority for early elections. I would like to ask all Knesset members: The two MK's have in fact admitted there is a Knesset majority for early elections. Therefore, I do not understand the parties' leaders, the prime minister and Cabinet mem-

bers. Where are you leading us? All of you know after all that 6 months of elections are a disaster for the economy and an indescribable difficulty for the parties. As of tomorrow morning, huge sums of money will be spent on public relations firms, advertisements in the press, and so on and so forth for 6 long months. What for? The problems facing the country are not just philosophical and theoretical. Every citizen in Israel knows what we are talking about, and it is better that all Knesset members contribute to having a civilized and economical election campaign. It is impossible that a single faction — and this is what is taking place in this chamber — which is afraid of early elections, will compel the entire Knesset to follow it. I am appealing to Dr Yosef Burg: It is impossible for the NRP's considerations, and they alone, to force the economy into unprecedented inflation. You should be taking something like that into consideration.

Finance Minister Yig'al Kohen-Orgad, you have been serving as finance minister for 6 months. You received from Yoram Aridor a 200-percent inflation rate and you are returning to the Knesset a 400-percent inflation rate. It is not I but you who did this. Well, you too should be a little modest and look at the figures, which are self-evident. During these coming months hundreds of billions of shekels should be paid in redeeming government bonds and loans. I am appealing to the prime minister now: You, too, are responsible for this. Allow us to conduct a civilized, short, matter-of-fact election campaign which will be honorable for the country, as customary in Britain and France. We will thus honor the country.

Peres Calls Debate 'Harsh'

TA222209 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 2140 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Interview with Labor Party Chairman MK Shim'on Peres by party affairs correspondent Nisim Mish'al — live, at the Knesset]

[Text] [Mish'al] Good evening, Mr Peres. How do you view the results of the vote today?

[Peres] The results are satisfactory. There was a harsh parliamentary struggle, and the results are a little better than I had expected in advance.

[Mish'al] Can you learn from the parliamentary struggle today about the nature of the election campaign which will take place? It was not a very pleasant battle today.

[Peres] It was a harsh battle. I hope that the election campaign will not be similar. We will do everything we can so that the election campaign will be civilized, short, economical, with a minimum of debate, and with emphasis on the problems facing us tomorrow and not yesterday.

[Mish'al] Mr Peres, we should touch on the procedures now. What is expected now? When will the elections be held, in your opinion?

[Peres] It is very hard for me to guess, but what I know is that not everyone who voted today in favor of delaying the elections is indeed for this. I know some coalition factions which, like us, are interested in early elections; and I hope we will find common ground.

[Mish'al] When, in your opinion, will the elections take place?

[Peres] I am not prepared to guess.

[Mish'al] From the point of view of the process, I understand that the bills are now transferred to the Knesset Constitution, Law and Justice Committee. Are you afraid there will be delays in this committee or will the opposition have a majority there so that it will be able to determine the date?

[Peres] We do not have a majority in this committee [7 to 6 in favor of the coalition on this committee] but in the two cases in which elections were held early, the time span between the preliminary reading today and the decisive reading was not longer than 1 week.

[Mish'al] You insist that the elections be held within 60 days, do you not?

[Peres] Yes, absolutely.

[Mish'al] Is this what the Alignment will insist on?

[Peres] This is what the Alignment will insist on, since I believe that otherwise the meaning will be a disastrous waste of funds. This will also split the people and will cause galloping inflation which we will be unable to get rid of.

[Mish'al] As for the Labor party, in view of the decision in the Knesset on early elections today, what do you intend to do immediately? For instance, in the case of Yitzhaq Navon — you told us yesterday that you will appeal to him tomorrow.

[Peres] Yes, I will do so.

[Mish'al] What do you intend to propose to him?

[Peres] I intend to propose that he be part of the election campaign, of course.

[Mish'al] Do you know more details today about possible contests in the Labor Party?

[Peres] Nisim, today we dealt with the parliamentary issue, but you are still asking about contests.

[Mish'al] Well, this is the first thing that will take place tomorrow, I assume, after the decision to hold early elections.

[Peres] This depends on the communications media. What I feel is that there is a strong desire in the party to unite, to avoid and prevent contests. I would also like to laud the behavior of our faction in recent days. It acted in a united manner. In the leadership too there was complete harmony; otherwise we would have been unable to conduct the campaign today as we did. This gives me a good reason for a great deal of optimism regarding the unity of the party and its ability to function.

Peres on Elections Campaign

TA231000 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Interview with Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres by Arye Golan; date and place not given — recorded]

[Text] [Golan] How do you expect the elections campaign to be? Will it be similar to that of 1981, from the aspect of its bitterness, or will the tone this time be lower and calmer?

[Peres] I cannot make guesses. I can hope. I very much hope that, at long last, we will be able to give the nation a model of a civilized, short, practical campaign without slander, without disputes, and we will take care to debate the genuine issues confronting the country.

[Golan] Do you intend to meet soon with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, in order, perhaps, to get some agreements on the nature of the elections campaign?

[Peres] I have considered that idea and if the conditions for this really are created, I will do it gladly.

[Golan] What are the conditions that should be created?

[Peres] Willingness on the part of the Likud to talk, too.

[Golan] Regarding the internal situation in the Labor Party, do you think that this time there will not be a competition and there will be a work schedule acceptable to both you and Rabin, and also Navon?

[Peres] What I can tell you is that the faction, over the past few days, has worked wonderfully and what is called the party's top echelons — that is, Yitzhaq Rabin, and also including Hayim Bar-Lev, Moshe Shahal, other members — we have also worked in absolute harmony. We were able to work rapidly and efficiently because of the existence of agreement, conversation with each other, teamwork, and I am very pleased with this.

[Golan] Does this also give you the feeling that maybe this time there will not be a competition before the elections?

[Peres] Let us put it this way: This time, the chance of going together, without preliminary competition, is the greatest there has been over the past years. If I read the party map correctly, that is also the wish of most of the members, and I will do my best to speak, so that we will be able to go out united and offer the nation both an alternative and justice.

Abu-Hatzera Knesset Address

TA221724 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1538 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Address to Knesset by TAMI leader MK Aharon Abu-Hatzera, following speech by opposition leader Shim'on Peres]

[Text] Mr Speaker, honorable Knesset: It was not haste or criticism, but rather careful thinking and in-depth observation that has led us to take this step. It was not in opposition, but on the contrary as partners to the coalition that we today are suggesting that the Knesset decide on dissolution and new elections.

I would like to elaborate on what I meant by saying that this was not a rash move. For weeks we have considered, reviewed, and analyzed the issue — both as partners, or particularly as partners to the coalition. We presented to ourselves all the problems with which we were busy, and thought about how to resolve them in the shortest possible time, or in a longer period of time, and what the chances for this are. We reached the conclusion that our problems are unsolvable through a blitz approach to them. Nor is there any chance that we will be able to solve them, because the Cabinet, based on a small Knesset majority, depends on parties and individual MK's, and cannot assume the power to make decisions on subjects which are not easy — and I say this as a representative of a small party. Neither I nor we want the Cabinet to be dependent on us, just as we do not want it to be dependent on any other body whose opinions are different from ours. We are facing the need for difficult decisions on economic and social issues. We must make decisions on political issues, which one need not detail, and on security matters, which also do not need to be specified because we are all familiar with them.

As partners to the Cabinet, we reached the conclusion that the only way — if we could do it, and if the present Knesset could do it — would be to have an understanding between the Likud and the Alignment on jointly assuming the yoke, because the problems are no longer those of one party or another, but problems of all of us as inhabitants and citizens of Israel. However, this chance does not exist at the moment. Only new elections can give one of the parties the power to make the decisions or, alternatively, to force both large parties — after the elections, whether there is or is not a winning party and a losing party — together to take a national view of matters.

Thus you, as gentlemen of the Knesset from both large parties — not as individuals — will have no choice, given the difficulties even after the elections, when even then you will be unable to overcome and solve the problems without a full consensus, but to sit together. Out of my knowledge of both large parties — and I know how serious national responsibility is — you will have to overcome the disputes and again give this nation the consensus it has lost. There is no chance of doing this before the elections. If we can, by forcing new elections to take place, bring you, the day after the elections, to do this, we as a political movement, as TAMI, will regard this as our major feat.

In reaching this conclusion, I must say we did not consider party calculations, nor have we taken anyone's considerations into account. We thought about the country, and took the national view into account in light of the facts and the data. It is a pity that other parties — I mean other small parties like TAMI, and others — prevented, throughout the day, the possibility that the Likud and the Alignment would reach an agreement on a date for new elections.

I know, following conversations with the leaders of both these parties, that there was a desire to do that, and it still exists. I am only sorry that we were not able to achieve it, although the

plenary session is still under way, the debate is going on, and we have the ability to reach an understanding. Elections do not have to be held when there is a confrontation between two blocs, and cannot be held or prevented by a majority supporting one view over another. I think that the Likud and the Alignment could, among themselves — contrary to the position of all the small parties — work out an agreed-upon date that would been good for the country and all the problems we are facing. It is still possible to reach that compromise.

I would also like to tell the coalition members: I know that there are some people, or some parties within the coalition, who think that TAMI should have consulted with them before deciding. TAMI consulted the senior partner with which it had signed the coalition agreement. Under all the agreements, we are under no obligation to inform any other partner within the coalition. We did this honorably when we had a clear-cut position on this, following considerations. Therefore, Knesset Members, with this general view in mind, and hoping that it is possible to heal the difficulties and overcome all of them, we hope to have brief, quick — although with ideological disagreements — elections which will be honorable and be characterized by good personal relations among all the camps. Let us all face the public, and allow the public to decide regarding each one of us and every party here. God willing, if we do it this way, I think the people of Israel are very much in need of this good atmosphere, and will be in great need of you, both large blocs, being forced afterwards to assume responsibility. Our problems, as I said, have already become problems about which we must make difficult decisions. I thus suggest that the Knesset transmit the motion I have brought to the appropriate committee.

Likud's Olmert Reacts

TA222204 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 2133 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Interview with Likud MK Ehud Olmert by party affairs correspondent Nisim Mish'al — live, at the Knesset]

[Text] [Mish'al] MK Olmert, the Likud this evening suffered what could be a crushing defeat. What is your reaction to it?

[Olmert] My reaction is that first of all I do not think this was a resounding defeat; we lost this vote, and there is no point in mincing words about it. Clearly we are going toward an election campaign, and it will take time to decide when it will take place. This is a matter of months, and my assessment is that it will happen sometime in early fall, such as in September. I promise you the Likud will approach this campaign and conduct it fairly, in a way that is fair and to the point, and I hope economically for the entire political system. We will compete, and I certainly think that our chances to win this campaign are great.

[Mish'al] Before we discuss the election campaign, MK Olmert, we witnessed a drama during the day with what I would call ups and downs, and the question is whether one can deduce from what happened today and apply it to what will happen in the election campaign — the hostility, perhaps even verbal violence?

[Olmert] No, I disagree with you. There were some tense stages in the parliamentary debate today, but comparing it to Knesset debates that have taken place over the past year or two, I think this one was certainly substantive. I would also like to praise our opponents, although I differ with everything they said — and I believe they were motivated not necessarily by the good of the country, but the good of the party — but they conducted a legitimate political debate, and so did we. There was a contest, which is extremely important, and when something is very important one insists on every little detail and tries every legitimate parliamentary move, but it was definitely a fair parliamentary game. I think that the future campaign will be fair, and certainly it is in all our interest to demand this fairness and highlight the need for it, rather than blow every little incident out of proportion.

[Mish'al] Do you think the Likud's demand to postpone the elections to the fall is justified? Why prolong the campaign?

[Olmert] I disagree with your statement that we are talking about a postponement until the autumn.

[Mish'al] But that is what you just said.

[Olmert] I think you misunderstood my remarks. I suggested that the election day be in the fall, in September, but we are not discussing a delay, because meanwhile we are talking about an advancement of the elections from November 1985. So the question is whether they will be advanced to September or another date.

[Mish'al] I asked whether there is justification for a campaign from now until September?

[Olmert] I think that if there is a month of holidays, passover, taking up most of April, this is a reasonable time. We are talking about a political system that was not prepared for elections, and the technical apparatus dealing with preparing for elections is not ready for it. It takes a minimal period of time, at least 3 months. There is also a process of legislation which might take more than 1 month, while there is a Knesset recess, and I think this is a reasonable period of time.

[Mish'al] Is it also economically reasonable to drag the campaign out until September?

[Olmert] Economically I think it does not make sense to hold elections now, and this is precisely one of the main reasons why the Likud demanded that today's bills be overruled and the election campaign held at the time stipulated by law. But you cannot demand an election campaign while the country is in the process of a complicated and complex economic process, and demand this when one of the contestants is not ready to compete, arguing that the campaign could harm the economic process. I can assure you of one thing — and I say this on behalf of not only myself, but also the prime minister, finance minister, and the entire Cabinet: The economic policy effected by the Likud — which I believe is courageous — will continue without any change. No change will take place in either the levies, or the limitations, or the demands of the public. We will not appeal to the public or implement so-called election economics. We believe the public comprehends the need for such a policy, and that

precisely because of that policy it will appreciate the Likud's policy and support it.

Morning Press Reviews Vote

TA230725 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0430 GMT 23 Mar 84

[From review of morning press editorials]

[Text] *HA'ARETZ* writes that the remaining question, still waiting for a decision, now involves the date of the elections. A reasonable assumption concerning the question — to which it is to be hoped, the required majority will be found — is that the elections will be held on the earliest date technically possible. Delays, however good the party reasoning is, will only cause harm. There is no need to go into details. The economy is showing the first signs of coming apart, as is the custom on the eve of elections, and it is quite clear that Israel's political authority regarding both the domestic scene and foreign affairs will suffer the longer there is a limited decision-making ability. Therefore, the elections period should be shortened, while suitable legal and administrative arrangements — as are required — should be made. If the precedent of a short and inexpensive election campaign is created — as it is possible to hope — this will bean achievement we will be able to congratulate ourselves on for many years to come.

HATZOFE writes that even after last night's voting in the Knesset plenum, the matter of the elections date will occupy the Knesset and if no agreement on the elections date can be reached, the same unpleasant manifestations we witnessed last night during the debate and voting may return. Whoever has fears for the Knesset's honor and whoever really and sincerely places the country's good first should work to end the stormy arguments and let the Knesset — with an attitude of mutual respect — decide on the date of the upcoming elections.

THE JERUSALEM POST calls for a clean elections campaign. The paper says that it is impossible to accept that the tactics followed by the Likud last night — to try to hold a secret vote on the matter of the elections, a proposal that could have damaged democracy — should affect the Knesset elections campaign. After the 1981 campaign, democracy in Israel needs a civilized competition that will deal with problems and people, not with collective preconceptions. *THE JERUSALEM POST* thinks that Mr Shamir's past as prime minister — and even prior to that — provides a foundation for the hope that this is really how the elections will be conducted.

'AL HAMISHMAR writes that tonight it is feelings that are surfacing among us and, more than anything else, the feeling of justice, because justice today calls for the Likud to pay the full price for the destruction it has caused to Israeli society's fabric, spine, spirit, and wisdom. The Alignment's victory is not yet in anybody's pocket and the return to hard work has just begun; but tonight, the night of the Likud's downfall, the paper writes that we are unhesitatingly opening the bottle of sparkling wine and happily drinking to the health of the elections that are on the way.

In an editorial that was written before the results of the Knesset vote were known, *DAVAR* writes that it knows with certainty that there will be early elections. A government that is capable of shameful strategems, as the paper phrases it, such as those we witnessed yesterday in the Knesset in order to hold onto seats at any price, cannot continue to serve in office. Therefore the political campaign was decided even before the parliamentary campaign was decided.

Navon To Resume Political Activity in May

TA231013 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 23 Mar pp 1, 3

[Report by Eli Tavor]

[Text] Former Israeli President Yitzhaq Navon, who is currently in Miami, Florida, yesterday reacted with gratification to the Knesset's decision to dissolve the Knesset and hold new elections. In a telephone interview to this paper, Navon said: "I believe that the Knesset made a good decision."

However, Navon still refused to state whether he would contest the leadership of the Alignment list in the next elections. "I will decide that only when I am back in Israel and once I know what the next election date is," he said. He added, "Even before I left on my present trip, I stated that I would return to full political activity in May, and that is still my plan."

In reaction to statements by Labor Party leaders Peres and Rabin that if a contest is held for the party leadership, then such a contest would be open to him as well, Yitzhaq Navon commented: "It is nice of them to say that, but before I announce whether I plan to run, I must know the date that has been decided for the next elections. I will be in touch with the party and with my friends, and I will hold consultations on this. The party has a chairman, and I also have friends with whom I have been in touch all along. Prominent in my considerations when I make my decision on whether to contest the party's candidacy for the premiership will be the party's own good."

Navon said further that since no urgent reason existed for his immediate return to Israel, he would continue his U.S. tour as planned and return home in about 2 weeks. He confirmed that as soon as he wound up his term as president, Shim'on Peres proposed that he become the fourth member of the party's top three, which applied to all the party institutions as well.

"Any step I decide on within the party framework will be taken by me only after my return. I am not about to start guessing on what is happening back home. First I must get back myself, find out how the situation has changed and what new conditions have evolved. In any event, I am returning to full political activity within the party, without any conditions. I do not expect them to hold any ceremonies in my honor. I will consider and make decisions only when I am back in Israel," Navon said.

Many Laborites have telephoned Yitzhaq Navon in the past 2 days. Some urged him to return sooner, but he stated that he would not make any decision before the Knesset decided whether or not to hold early elections.

Close associates of Navon said yesterday that the fixing of an election date will prove decisive in his plans about whether ot not to run for the party leadership. The farther off the election date is, the greater the chance that Yitzhaq Navon will announce his participation in the contest.

NRP MK Ben-Me'ir Resigns From Knesset Committee

TA221718 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1650 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Report from Knesset by party affairs correspondent Yotam Taqir]

[Text] There is a development here regarding the proposal to have secret balloting today on the issue of holding early elections. The National Religious Party [NRP] faction convened for a discussion of this matter, and MK Yehuda Ben-Me'ir firmly opposed this matter.

His opposition was so firm that when the faction decided to support secret ballots with a majority of three votes against two, Yehuda Ben-Me'ir left the meeting for a brief consultation with his political partner, Zvulun Hammer, returned to the meeting room, and announced that he was resigning from his membership in the Knesset House Committee, as well as from his position as the head of the NRP Knesset faction.

The NRP members were then faced with another problem: Who will replace Yehuda Ben-Me'ir in the meeting of the Internal Affairs Committee [as heard]. NRP MK Avraham Melamed and MK Eli'ezer Avtabi both refused, but when pressured MK Avtabi went down to the meeting of the Knesset House Committee, where a decision is going to be made on the secret ballot.

If Avtabi supports this, the coalition is expected to have a majority on this committee [the coalition enjoys a majority of 7 to 6 on this committee] and it is possible that a decision on secret balloting will be made in a few minutes.

Secret Ballot Agreed Upon

TA221738 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1728 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] The Knesset House Committee has decided on a secret ballot. This is reported by Tzvi Yisre'eli. National Religious Party [NRP] MK Yehuda Ben-Me'ir had resigned from membership on the committee and was replaced by NRP MK Eli'ezer Avtabi. The Knesset House Committee decided on this kind of vote.

We have just heard the Knesset member currently presiding over the Knesset session who, by virtue of his position and by regulation, stated that the motion to the agenda raised by Alignment MK Shoshana Arbeli-Almozlino is accepted and the vote should be open. However, the Knesset House Committee has just decided on a secret ballot.

Kahana: KAKH Movement To Compete in Election

TA231003 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 23 Mar p 4

[Text] The KAKH movement plans to run for the Knesset elections. This was stated in Jerusalem yesterday. According to Rabbi Me'ir Kahana, the movement's principal objective in the elections will be to clean this country of foreign cultures and hostile foreigners. The main problems, the movement believes, lie in the contrast between Western democracy and a Jewish state.

Defense Minister Views IDF Exercise in North

TA221635 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1615 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Tel Aviv, 22 Mar (ITIM) — Defense Minister Moshe Arens has viewed an IDF exercise which was conducted in northern Israel. Tank, infantry and Air Force units participated in the exercise. The defense minister praised the officers and the soldiers for the high level of performance exhibited in the exercise.

Golan Heights Exercise Ends

TA221740 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] An IDF exercise on the Golan Heights has ended. The exercise included breaking through enemy lines and overtaking targets with a combined force of armored, engineering, artillery, infantry, Air Force and antiaircraft units. The objective of the exercise was to test the IDF's ability to confront the Syrians. The conclusion of the exercise was observed by the defense minister, the chief of staff, and the commander of the Northern Command.

Kohen-Orgad Obtains Price Reductions From Businesses

TA222223 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 2150 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] The heads of the large marketing chains this evening informed Finance Minister Yig'al Kohen-Orgad that they will shortly launch a discount campaign of between 15 and 30 percent. Our economic affairs correspondent Hayim Plattner reports that over the last few days, the finance minister has had contacts with various Knesset [as heard] elements in a bid to bring about a reduction of prices. Today he asked the leading industrialists to follow in this spirit. Our correspondent points out that the possibility was also raised this evening of opening up imports to Israel so as to lead to price reductions. The finance minister and his top advisers and officials in the ministry did not reject this proposal out of hand.

Prime Minister Holds Meeting With Rumsfeld

TA231229 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] Ambassador Donald Rumsfeld has met with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir in Jerusalem. He arrived this morning from

Cairo for a 24-hour visit to Israel. In Cairo, he met with President Mubarak and Foreign Minister 'Ali.

The prime minister told Ambassador Rumsfeld that Israel was not pleased with the state of its relations with Egypt and expressed the hope that now, 5 years after the peace agreement, the relations would develop better than they have done in the past. The U.S. ambassador said it appeared that the Iraqi offensive in the Persian Gulf war had been contained and there would soon be a deadlock in the fighting. This afternoon Rumsfeld will meet with the defense minister.

Shamir Receives MFO Commanders, Praises UN Role

TA230945 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 0920 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] Jerusalem, 23 Mar (ITIM) — Today Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir received the outgoing and incoming commanders of the Sinai UN Multinational Force and Observers [MFO] in his Jerusalem office. The outgoing commander is Fredrik Bull-Hasen, who is shortly to be appointed chief of staff of the Norwegian Army, and the incoming commander is Egil Ingebrigsten.

In his welcoming remarks, Mr Shamir praised the role played by the UN force in Sinai and said that at his meetings with EC foreign ministers recently in Brussels he had mentioned the Sinai force as an example of the role the United Nations can play in Lebanon. "A precondition for the use of such a force," the prime minister said, "is the parties' agreement on its use and their willingness to cooperate with it."

The prime minister added that the differences of opinion we had with Egypt never involved the United Nations in Sinai. As for Lebanon, the condition for the establishment of such a force and its use — that is, the agreement of the sides — did not yet exist.

Lieutenant General Bull-Hasen thanked Mr Shamir for Israel's cooperation with the Sinai MFO and noted his satisfaction at the fact that at least this part of the peace agreement with Egypt was being fulfilled as it should be.

Mr Shamir wished a further successful use of the force to the incoming commander and promised Israel's further full support. "Peace must be strengthened in the entire area," the prime minister concluded.

General Callaghan on UNIFIL's Role in Lebanon

TA231224 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] UNIFIL, the United Nations force in south Lebanon, will have its mandate up for renewal before the Security Council next month. General William Callaghan, the force's commander, says he does not see this as a crisis date for the future of UNIFIL. He said various options are being talked about for the future:

[Begin recording] You know, the Middle East theatre of operations has demonstrated the tremendous flexibility of the United Nations in adapting itself to changing sets of circumstances. In this area, it has supplied observer missions, separation of forces missions, demilitarized zones observer missions, and so on. You know, given the mandate and the capacity to do things, and above all the cooperation of the people who are a party to these agreements, the United Nations is a wonderful vehicle to advance peace. [end recording]

Lubrani on Attacks Against IDF Soldiers in Lebanon

TA231158 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] It is now openly acknowledged that most of the attacks on Israelis in southern Lebanon are from within the majority community. However, Uri Lubrani, coordinator of Israel's activities in Lebanon, warns that such attacks only maintain instability in the area, and delay an Israeli pullback. He was talking to reporter Alan Ben-'Ami:

[Begin recording] I think that what is happening is that these incidents — perpetrated, I believe, by a very small element within the Shi'ite community in southern Lebanon — cause a delay in Israel's redeployment, and I think that the people who are perpetrating this, if they believe that by instigating or intitiating or encouraging these attacks they will hasten Israel's redeployment further south, then they have made a mistake. I have news for those people, they are only going to delay Israel's redeployment, and what they are doing is just getting the opposite result of what I believe they want and therefore they will have to think twice if this is indeed what they are aiming at. [end recording]

Herzog Meets With Israeli Druze, Asks Cooperation

TA221122 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Israel's President, Hayim Herzog, today asked the heads of the local Druze councils to work among their brethren in Lebanon for Israel's sake:

[Begin Herzog recording] I can only beg you to be a loyal bridge for the broader Druze sect, in order to guarantee that Lebanon will indeed not turn into a base for an attack against the State of Israel. [end recording]

Our correspondent Yosi Qoren reports that the heads of the Druze local councils were the president's guests in his residence today. They expressed their support, praised their incorporation in Israel, expressed gratitude for the development of their settlements, but asked the president to work among the government ministries to prevent discrimination in the various benefits enjoyed by Jewish citizens of Israel.

Lebanese Forces' Yazbik on Contacts in Lebanon

TA221901 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Pierre Yazbik, the representative in Israel of the Christian Lebanese Forces, says in pushing for the idea of cantons in Lebanon, they have already had contacts with the Druze and

Shi'ite communities. He told Middle East experts at the Hebrew University's Truman Institute today that this could be the solution for Israel's dilemma in Lebanon too.

[Begin recording] We are saying that the starting of this dialogue, primarily one of the dialogues, which is the dialogue in the mountain between the Christians and the Druze, is the solution to the problem that Israel today is facing to its presence in south Lebanon.

When the Christians and Druze will start talking together and dealing together they will block the mountain, they will create the hermetic obstacle, and the Shi'ites and Nabih Brri who is today the moderate leader, but for how long?

If the Shi'ite mass continues to be radicalized through the Shi'ite penetration from the Al-Biqa' to Beirut, how long can Nabih Birri avoid being transformed into a Bani Sadr? You know that Bani Sadr, the moderate leader of Khomeyni's Iran, was finally ejected because of his moderation, and was going to be killed had he not run away and found refuge in France.

So what we are saying is: Let us preserve the moderate leaders of the Shi'ites, and we will be able to establish this dialogue with them. Otherwise we may have to be dealing in a year's time with an ayatollah. [end recording]

Money Reported Flowing to Israeli Arabs
TA221125 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Various international organizations in the United States and West Europe are continuing to send millions of dollars to the Arabs of Israel to finance nationalist activity, according to the prime minister's adviser on Arab affairs, Binyamin Gur-Arye. At a talk with our correspondent Yo'el Dar, the adviser said that a former security prisoner was in charge of distributing the loans among the Arab students. In reply to a question about what the government intends to do to stop the flow of money, Binyamin Gur-Arye said:

[Begin recording] We are examining the issue from the legal aspect and at present the law does not permit us to act against this matter, but the matter is under constant scrutiny. It is clear that whoever is sending the money has a political objective and that objective is not the welfare or security of the State of Israel. [end recording]

Soviet Delegation Refuses To Visit Yad Vashem
TA231021 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 23 Mar 84 p 12

[Report by Moshe Meisels]

[Excerpt] "We did not go inside Yad Vashem [Holocaust Memorial Monument] because this site describes events in a distorted fashion. It makes no mention of the Red Army's fight in the war — a fight which saved hundreds of thousands of Jews," the chairman of the Soviet delegation currently visiting Israel told this reporter. The speaker was Yuriy Barbash, editor of *SOVETSKAYA KULTURA*.

Asked whether a resumption of ties with Israel can be expected, he replied that "the Israeli leadership has acted aggressively, and conditions for a renewal of relations can only be created if positive changes take place."

ALGERIA

President Receives Official Bound for Mauritania

LD221214 Algiers APS in English 1015 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Algiers , 22/3 (APS) — President Chadli Bendjedid received Wednesday Colonel Rabid Benyelles, central director to the Ministry of National Defence, before his leaving for Nouakchott as special envoy holding a message from the president of the republic to President Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala of Mauritania.

LIBYA

JANA Reports Shultz Fears for 'Spying' Aircraft

LD221737 Tripoli JANA in English 1656 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text) Washington, Jumada Thani 18, March 21, [date as received] JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The American secretary of state, Mr George Shultz, expressed the American Administration fears that Libya would attack the American spying aircrafts, situated in the Egyptian territory, sent by President Reagan to protect the regimes of Egypt and Sudan which are subordinated to America. The American secretary of state expressed his fears in a press conference on Tuesday in Washington. He openly pointed out that the American Administration is worried about its allies in the Middle East and the Horn of Africa from Libya especially after the bomb raid on Omduramn radio station last Friday. [sentence as received]. Mr George Shultz said that those fears were the reason behind sending the aircrafts to Egypt to protect its allies.

U.S. Airlifts of Egyptian Material to Sudan Reported

LD221756 Tripoli JANA in English 1734 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] New York, Jumada Thani 18, March 22, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The official spokesman of the American State Department, Alan Romberg, in a press conference yesterday acknowledged that it was the American Administration which had airlifted the Egyptian military equipment from Egypt to Sudan. The spokesman alleged that there was no decision taken yet with regards to sending more American military equipment to Sudan but he added that the American Administration was considering ways which would help Sudan in respect of its needs at the long term.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Message From Palestinian Front

LD221856 Tripoli JANA in English 1758 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada Thani 18, Mar 22, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY-- — The Palestinian Front for the Popular Struggle sent a message to the leader of the Great 1st September Revolution reaffirming that the plots against Jamahiriyah are not directed against the Libyan Arab people but they are acts of aggression and threat against' all Arab militants and revolutionaries. It is, therefore, the duty of all the active Arab forces to confront these plots and foil them. The Palestinian Front for the Popular Struggle saluted, in its message to the leader of the revolution, the steadfastness and bravery of the Libyan Arab people in the face of all imperialist, Zionist and reactionary plots.

"We are very proud of your militant and effective role and your consolidation and support, too, and participation in the national Palestinian struggle and the national Lebanese struggle which brought down the agreement of shame concluded between the Lebanese Government and the Zionist enemy and that the Arab nation and all forces of freedom and progress in the world, highly appreciate your role nationally and internationally" the message said.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Palestinian Figures

LD230206 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0015 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution yesterday received the brothers: Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the PFLP-GC; Abu Salih, Abu Musa and Khalid al-'Amlah, members of the Fatah Revolutionary Command, and 'Umar ash-Shihabi and Fadl Shurur, members of the Political Bureau of the PFLP-GC.

Sudanese Opposition to Numayri Cited on Raid

LD221032 Tripoli JANA in English 0830 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Athens, Jumada Thani 18, Mar 22, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — A number of the Sudanese opposition front held a press conference yesterday evening in the Greek capital Athens in which they condemned the puppet Numayri's claims that the plane raided television and radio station in Omdurman on Friday was a Libyan plane. They asserted that the Sudanese masses and the opposition know very well and have the proof that the attacking plane was a Sudanese and the pilot was a revolutionary Sudanese pilot who refused submission to puppets who follow the bandwagon of American imperialism and submit to the agent Egyptian regime.

They added that the Sudanese opposition have got a full list of Sudanese Air Force officers detained after the bombing of the two stations which was a part of a popular uprising against injustice and oppression. The spreading of the uprising to southern Sudan is a best indication of this. It is a reoccuring event there watched by the whole world daily. Numayri's claims are nothing but lies, the objective of which is to gain increased American support and to beg personal protection for himself in view of his mounting fear out of successive revolutionary strikes.

Members of the opposition front as a revolutionary force asked world public opinion to be well aware of these Egyptian-American tricks aiming at recolonizing Sudan and punish its people and revolutionaries. They warned the agent Egyptian regime to refrain from interfering in Sudanese afairs and to direct any means it may have against the Zionist enemy and not a brotherly people. They have also warned the puppet Numayri, the Egyptian regime, and the head of international terrorism America not to interfere in the Sudanese people's affairs because what has happened and what may happen concerns the Sudanese people and no one else. They added their rejection to the sending

of American spy planes to Egyptian and Sudanese people's uprising for its freedom and sovereignty violated by the puppet Numayri. Members of the opposition front declared that they will submit an urgent memorandum to this effect to the Security Council representative revealing the truth about the Sudanese people's revolution.

Further Opposition Cited

LD221058 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1013 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Al-Bayda, 22 Mar (JANA) — The masses of the Sudanese Arab people in the municipality of Al-Jabal al-'Akhdar affirmed that the Sudanese masses with their popular revolution will struggle until the (?collapse) of the regime of Numayri in Sudan. The masses of the Sudanese people, in a statement issued after their meeting yesterday evening in Al-Bayda', announced their commitment to the resolutions of the first national gathering, and that they are adopting a stand of steadfastness and struggle together with the Libyan Arab people in order to defeat the imperialist, Zionist and reactionary conspiracies that are being plotted against the Arab nation.

Sudanese Officers Cited

LD231057 Tripoli JANA in English 0912 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] London, Jumwda Thani 19, Mar 23, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The Sudanese national officers have issued statement distributed in London and inside Sudanese Armed Forces barracks. The statement reads as follows:

The agent Numayri accomplished his new preplanned role within the framework of the imperialists design prepared by the American Administration and international Zionism to find an excuse to destroy mounting liberational advance in the Sudan and find the excuse for American, Egyptian and Zionist military expansionist presence and receive more forces of oppression and destruction to continue their expansionist imperialist hegemony on the area in an attempt to turn back the clock.

The statement said that the Egyptian regime has step forward to accomplish its role within the preplanned design and came to support agent Numayri. Marshal Abu Ghazalah left in a hurry to Khartoum and followed by paratroopers and other units trained in guerrilla fighting and squadron of Egyptian bombers in addition to other Egyptian military presence on Jabal al-Awliya, Wadi (Syedna), Al-Junaynah and Al-Muglad bases. [sentence as received] The statement also said, that the Sudanese steadfast Jamahiri against expansionist imperialist interest are uniting their forces for salvation against agent regime. When the agent began to lose control and victory of the liberal became imminent and the imperialist realized that the fate of their follower is going to be similar to what had happened to the late shah of Iran when they were not able to save him, the American Administration signalled permission for their follower to start accomplishing the preplanned plot.

The meeting of Aswan between the two agent regimes was the beginning to execute criminal acts against neighboring liberals and noble nationals after they saw the imperialist and hatred time had come to execute the plot against liberals and liberation. The statement confirmed that hireling Numayri regime is fascist and repressive, used all brutal means of suppression, liquidation and detention to assist the Egyptian Airforce and American experts which had bombed indiscriminately villages in the south to exterminate civilian nationals, children, women and old people. Nevertheless, uprising took place, the regime became on brink of collapse and victory has become imminent. At this important decisive time of struggle march and according to national responsibility we confirm that liberation movement will not discontinue and the will of the liberation shall be fulfilled. Let the Egyptian regime know that the open assistance of hireling regime and attack of southern nationals positions by war planes marked with Sudanese flag and flown by Egyptian pilots and U.S. instructors would never protect an agent regime which is unable even to protect itself from the people's anger and their roaring earthquake. The Egyptian regime has to keep its hands off the Sudan's free fighters because the salvation from Numayri's regime is a decision taken by the Sudanese masses.

Sudanese Popular Forces Meet

LD221739 Tripoli JANA in English 1653 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada Thani 18, March 21, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The Sudanese Arab popular forces, at the end of their emergency meeting held yesterday at the Permanent Secretariat of the Arab Popular Congress, sent a message to the leader of the great 1st September revolution wishing his stands and revolutionary Arab unity approach all success.

The message reaffirmed the alliance of the Sudanese masses, who met to study the dangerous situation in Sudan in the light of the American-Egyptian intervention and the risks it represents against the Sudanese people and throughout the Arab world, with the people of Jamahiriyah. The Sudanese Arab popular forces expressed, in their message, their continuous readiness to strengthen this alliance and foster it to achieve liberation and unity. They further saluted the revolutionary stands of the leader of the revolution and the struggle of the Libyan Arab people and the national and patriotic forces standing by his side against imperialism, Zionism, and reaction.

MAURITANIA

Head of State Receives Algerian President's Message

LD222211 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Lieutenant Colonel Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation and head of state, this evening received Colonel Rashid [name indistinct], member of the FLN Political Bureau and envoy of President Chadeli Bendjedid, in the presence of Mauritanian Foreign Minister Major Ahmed Ould Minnih, the chief of staff of the National Gendarmerie and the Algerian ambassador to Mauritania. In a statement to Nouakchott radio correspondent following the meeting, the Algerian envoy said he conveyed a message from the brother President Chadli Bendjedid to the Mauritanian

chairman. He said the message concerned the excellent relations of cooperation between the two countries.

The Algerian envoy arrived in Nouckchott this evening and was received at the airport by the commander of the National Gendarmerie.

DPRK Envoy Brings Kim Il-Song Message
AB222205 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1430 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Lieutenant Colonel Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala, chairman of the CMSN and head of state, today received a special North Korean envoy who delivered to him a message from President Kim Il-Song. After the audience, the special envoy made the following statement to Radio Mauritania:

[Begin recording; special envoy in Korean followed by French translation] In the first place, I would like to express to you, through the press [words indistinct] the audience. His Excellency the President, Col Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala, expressed his great concern for the problem of the reunification of the Korean Peninsula by the Korean people themselves and without any foreign interference. President Haydala (?told) us that that is the view and the policy of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania. We seized the opportunity that the audience offered us to discuss the strengthening of the cooperation between our two peoples. [end recording]

Time Change Introduced To Save Energy
LD221140 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] As of midnight, 60 minutes will be added to local time in Morocco. The clock hands will be moved to 0100. A government meeting took this decision yesterday out of eagerness to economize in the consumption of energy. In this respect, the Secretariat of State to the prime minister in charge of administrative affairs has issued a statement informing the public all over the country that it has been decided to add 60 minutes to the time in operation now which coincides with gmt as of tomorrow, Friday. The change takes place this evening Thursday at 2400 at night when 60 minutes will be added. A later statement will announce the ending of this timing.

SUDAN

Judiciary Council Condemns 'Libyan Aggression'
EA222104 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] The High Judiciary Council, at its meeting this morning under the chairmanship of (Dafallah al-Haj Yusuf), chief justice, on behalf of the president of the republic, Ja'far Muhammad Numayri, chairman of the Council, condemned the treacherous Libyan aggression to which Omdurman was subjected on 16 March. The Council stressed that the aggression violated international laws and conventions and aimed at weakening national unity and destabilizing the country through the Libyan regime. The Council called on international organizations to condemn the aggression as a flagrant violation of international law.

Spokesman Says Libyan Aircraft Carried Out Raid
LD231008 KUWAIT KUNA IN ARABIC 0824 GMT 23 MAR 84

[Text] Kuwait, 23 Mar (KUNA) -- Two Kuwaiti newspapers today cited a Sudanese military spokesman saying that a raid carried out by an unidentified bomber aircraft last Friday on the town of Omdurman, Sudan, was not carried out by the Sudanese opposition or by insubordinate forces within the Sudanese Army.

AL-ANBA' and *AL-QABAS* quoted the Sudanese spokesman, Major General Babkar 'Abd ar-Rahim, as having said: "The aircraft was visually identified as being Libyan. It was seen by a pilot lieutenant colonel and another officer who was very knowledgable about aircraft." He added: "The details reports by the two officers exactly match those of the Soviet-made Tupolev TU-22."

The Sudanese military spokesman denied predictions that the activating of the joint defense agreement with Egypt and the dispatch of two American AWACS to southern Egypt are intended to deal a preemptive strike against Libya. They are rather a "precaution by a country against whom an agression has been committed."

Equatoria Assembly Condemns Libya, Supports Numayri
EA222133 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] In Juba yesterday Mr Francis Wajo, deputy governor of the Equatoria region, presented to the third session of the regional peoples assembly the regional government statement on the iniquitious Libyan aggression against Omdurman last Friday. The deputy governor explained in the statement the dimensions of the air raid, stressing Libya's ambitions and spite against the revolution's achievements. In its session, chaired by (?Dr Robert Tiko Lagu), speaker of the Assembly, the Assembly condemned the barbarous Libyan aggression against civilian targets in Omdurman. The Assembly supported all the courageous steps taken by the leader-president, Jafar Muhammad Numayri; and his brother, the Egyptian president, Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the sisterly Arab Republic of Egypt. The Assembly warned Libya's colonel of the consequences of the [word indistinct] and interference in Sudan's internal affairs. The Assembly appealed to the Sudanese people to be vigilant to expose the enemies of the revolution, namely the agents of the Libyan colonel.

DJIBOUTI

President Observes Joint Exercises With French

EA220932 Djibouti Domestic Service in Somali 1645 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Excerpt] The president of the Republic of Djibouti, Hassan Gouled Aptidon, this morning visited the headquarters of the ongoing joint Djibouti-French military exercise in Obock in order to see how the exercise is being conducted. The joint military exercise, codenamed "Friendship-84," started yesterday morning and will continue until the end of the month. The president, accompanied by Defense Minister Habib Mohamad Loita; Commander of the Djibouti Armed Forces Colonel Ali Mireh Wais; French Ambassador to Djibouti Mr Pierre Garreau; and Commander of the French Forces stationed in Djibouti Major General (Sagie), watched part of the maneuvers from a helicopter.

SOMALIA

Jama Barre Assails Ethiopia's 'Wild Policies'

EA221233 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 0530 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Excerpts] SDR Foreign Minister Challe Abdurahman Jama Barre last night delivered a lecture outlining Somalia's foreign policy to ministers, deputy ministers, People's Assembly and Central Committee members, [word indistinct] and lecturers and students of the people's university, as well as members of the public at the people's university in Mogadishu.

Describing Somalia's foreign policy as neutral, supporting peaceful coexistence among the world community, he said Somalia's cooperation with the world is based on freedom and equality and recognizes international laws safeguarding human rights and government laws calling for noninterference of internal policies of nations and respect for the independence of all countries.

On Somalia's position on international problems, the minister said it supports, in accordance with government laws which condemn the invasion of a country by another, [words indistinct]. This government policy contradicts Abyssinia's wild policies aimed at hoodwinking international public opinion.

The SDR's foreign policy supports the idea that people under Abyssinian colonialism be allowed to determine their own future. This would automatically solve the problems in the Horn of Africa peacefully and justifiably.

Foreign Minister Abdurahman Jama Barre said the cause of the problems in the Horn of Africa is the armed Abyssinian occupation of western Somalia and the Abo people and its colonization of Eritrea, Tigre, and the Afar people.

TANZANIA

Joint Cooperation Session With Mozambique Opens

EA221239 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 0700 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Arusha: Tanzania wishes to strengthen relations with Mozambique to enable both countries to confront their economic problems.

Opening the ninth joint commission of cooperation between Tanzania and Mozambique in Arusha, Prof Kighoma Malima, minister of state in the vice president's office for planning and economic development, said both countries need proper management of existing resources in order to combat the poor economic situation. Prof Malima also called on the countries to pay particular consideration to the completion of the projects already agreed upon instead of embarking on new ones.

Meanwhile, the leader of the Mozambique delegation to the meeting, Dr Pascoal Mocumbi, Mozambique's minister of health, said his country is satisfied with the economic relations between Tanzania and Mozambique. Tanzania is represented by a 30-man delegation at the talks, while Mozambique has a 15-man delegation.

Cooperation Pledged With PRC Trade Unions

EA211205 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 0400 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] The Tanzania workers union, Juwata, and the Chinese Trade Union Federation have pledged to strengthen relations and cooperation between Chinese and Tanzanian workers. The Juwata secretary general, Ndugu Joseph Rwegasira, and the chairman of the Chinese Trade Union Federation, Ndugu Ni Zhifu, have expressed their willingness to strengthen cooperation between their organizations. This was stated in speeches they delivered during a dinner party hosted by Juwata to welcome the Chinese trade union delegation last night.

The Juwata secretary general praised the PRC for supporting the efforts made by Tanzanian workers and its assistance for projects of national development. The PRC has assisted Tanzania in several such projects, including the Friendship Textile Mill Ltd, the Ubungo [word indistinct] implements factory and the Tanzania-Zambia railway authority, Tazara.

Replying to Ndugu Rwegasira's speech, the chairman of the Chinese Trade Union Federation, Ndugu Ni Zhifu, praised the efforts made by Juwata in encouraging workers in the country to boost production so as to increase national revenue. Ndugu Ni Zhifu also congratulated and pledged his support for the Tanzanian workers union in its efforts aimed at protecting and strengthening the unity of trade unions on the African Continent and in the world as a whole.

The five-man delegation from the Chinese Trade Union Federation, which is visiting Tanzania to exchange views with the country's workers union, is scheduled to meet with Juwata officials at the headquarters in Dar es Salaam today.

PRC Group in Zanzibar

EA222111 Zanzibar Domestic Service in Swahili 1600 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Summary] Zanzibar: The five-man Chinese trade union delegation arrived in Zanzibar this evening for a 3-day visit and has already toured the radio equipment factory at Dole. The delegation is expected to hold talks with party officials, to visit small-scale industries and to meet with Ali Hassan Mwinyi, acting chairman of the Revolutionary Council and interim president of Zanzibar.

UGANDA

MP's Return From Meeting on East African Community

EA220929 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Three Uganda ministers who attended the recent meeting between the creditors of the defunct East African Community and delegations from Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda in Paris have returned home.

The ministers of internal affairs, Dr Luwuliza-Kirunda; of commerce, Mr Omara-Aliro; and of rehabilitation, Mr Masette-Kuuya, told newsmen at Entebbe Airport that delegates to the Paris meeting agreed to meet again in Arusha soon to discuss the implementation of the Arusha accord which was reached by the heads of state of Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania last year.

In the meantime, Uganda and Kenyan officials will be holding bilateral talks in Jinja this week aimed at finalizing the mediation exercise regarding the division of assets and liabilities of the former East African community.

BURUNDI

Speeches at Dinner Honoring Malian President Traore

EA221635 Bujumbura Domestic Service in French
0420 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Excerpts] In a speech delivered at a dinner hosted last night at Hotel Meridien in honor of the visiting presidential couple, Malian President Moussa Traore and his wife, President Bagaza welcomed his guests and stressed the similarity of views between Mali and Burundi on crucial problems affecting our continent, particularly the Western Sahara and southern Africa problems:

[Begin recording] Mr President, Burundi welcomes in your person a distinguished leader who put a country like yours on the path of modernization, a country full of prestigius history. Another common element between our two countries is of course the solidarity we have with other international bodies. It is worth noting therefore that Mali and Burundi are motivated by the same desire to promote cooperation. We are convinced that your current visit will give a decisive impetus to the good relations already existing between our two countries. [end recording]

[Begin Moussa Traore recording] Mr President, this visit, which comes within the framework of dialogue to consolidate the relations of friendship and fraternal cooperation existing between our two countries, is also a happy opportunity to convey fraternal and friendly greetings from the Mali people to the brother people of Burundi. Mr President, Mali, faithful to the fundamental principles of the UN and the OAU Charters on peoples and human rights, is determined to make its contribution to the search for peaceful solutions to those problems. On Western Sahara, Mali as a member of the working committee will spare no effort to ensure the effective implementation of the Addis Ababa resolution which urges Morocco and the Polisario Front to undertake direct negotiations in order to reach a cease-fire which aims at creating the necessary conditions for a free and fair general referendum for self-determination so as to allow the Saharan people to enjoy their full and fundamental rights.

It is also in the name of peace and understanding that my country tirelessly promotes national reconciliation in Chad. We consider the Chadian crisis as an internal affair and we are in favor of the withdrawal of foreign troops and any action aimed at avoiding external interference in Chadian affairs. Mali will continue to deploy all its efforts in order to put an end to this fratricidal war. [end recording]

CAMEROON

Three Ambassadors Present Credentials to Biya

AB221330 Yaounde Domestic Service in English
1200 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] In a ceremony this morning at State House, the head of state, Paul Biya, received letters of credence from three new ambassadors accredited to Cameroon. The letters of credence were presented by the Congolese Ambassador Jerome (Olande); the ambassador from Equatorial Guinea, His Excellency Angel Sarafin Malabo; and His Excellency Ramadan Marmulaku, the ambassador of Yugoslavia with residence in the Nigerian capital of Lagos.

CHAD

Defense Minister Discusses Situation in Country

AB231028 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French
1845 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] It is the living who fight, says a dictum. The Chadian minister of defense seems to agree with this saying. In an interview published by *INFOR-TCHAD* yesterday morning, Rotouang Yoma said that only a country capable of defending itself can be independent.

In answer to a question from the CHADIAN PRESS AGENCY [ATP] concerning the state of our army and Chad's defense policy in this war, the defense minister said that the national army, the Chadian National Armed Forces, are in full training while fulfilling their duties on the battlefield. With regard to military training the Chadian minister told ATP that 1,500 to 2,000 young Chadians have already been trained under the third republic. Others are also receiving special training abroad, especially in France, Ivory Coast, and Senegal. In this framework, Chad receives aid from several friendly countries and we will continue to diversify and increase our efforts, Rotouang Yoma said.

Concerning the army's mission, the minister of defense and war victims stated that in addition to its traditional mission, it must help in our economic, social and cultural development.

Asked about Chad's defense policy, Mr Rotouang said that it forms an integral part of our general conception of external policy and is therefore geared towards African solidarity and the diversification of our efforts with regard to international cooperation. Concerning our defense policy itself, the minister of defense said that nowadays [words indistinct] the mobilization of forces should be based on quality rather than quantity. We therefore need a strong army, one that is adequately equipped. The minister of defense pointed out that though there is calm on the northern front, the Chadian National Armed Forces continue to destroy the pockets of resistance in the (Dihawa) and Salamat regions, for example.

Finally, in the same interview, Rotouang Yoma hailed the [words indistinct]. In his view, the return of these opponents is a true act of courage and patriotism.

Details on National Reconstruction Contributions

AB231220 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French
1845 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Concerning the contribution for national reconstruction, the inhabitants of Ndjamena are (?preparing) to pay their (?10) francs to their mullahs. Tickets for this contribution have already been distributed to taxpayers in the Ndjamena rural district. They are light blue for men and red for women. However,

the collection will begin in 2 months, after the training of the committees in charge of the propaganda and collection.

During an interview granted us this morning in his office, the subprefect, (Alimama Diop), explained that the national reconstruction contribution concerns only mature and able-bodied men and women and that no special contribution will be paid for livestock. He also explained that children will not pay this contribution. [passage indistinct containing the subprefect's recorded statement]

GABON

Mauritanian Envoy on Reasons for Recognition of SDAR

AB222115 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French
1230 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Excerpt] The Mauritanian ambassador to Gabon, His Excellency El-Hadj Thiam, has made a statement on the reasons for his country's recognition of the SDAR. Speaking to our colleague Allassan Balogo, the Mauritanian ambassador to Gabon began by explaining why his country recognized this state:

[Begin recording] This recognition is no surprise for those who are closely interested in the situation in the subregion. We believe it is no use fussing about a sovereign decision that is in conformity with the evolution of our subregion's history and the African geopolitical situation. At the time of recognition, the Mauritanian head of state stressed to the SDAR the need for a peaceful solution with their Moroccan brothers. It is important to emphasize that this recognition is not at all directed against Morocco, a country with which we have cultural relations despite diplomatic misunderstandings. We do not want, as some people think, to be anybody's (?toy), and we are determined not to get involved in any way in the Western Saharan war which we consider fratricidal and of no benefit to any country in the subregion, particularly our own. Also, we must be understood when we talk about neutrality. We will not take part directly or indirectly in the military operations in Western Sahara, and it is obvious that we respect the universal right of all peoples to self-determination and independence, as all peace-loving countries of the world do. Recognition of the SDAR does not mean that we are going to be obliged to aid them and then find ourselves in the same situation we were in before the military takeover in 1978 which brought about our logical and final withdrawal from the Western Saharan war in August 1979.

[Balogo] In other words, the Mauritanian decision to recognize the SDAR is not a recent one. But, Your Excellency, after this recognition we saw the cabinet reshuffle that brought about the unexpected dismissal of former Prime Minister Colonel Maayouia Ould Sid Ahmed Taya. The closeness of these two events makes one think of a possible link between them. Some people even alleged that it was the recognition of the SDAR that brought about misunderstanding within the government, because some ministers agreed to it while others did not. What is it exactly?

[Thiam] In fact, the second decision on the cabinet reshuffle was made on 8 March 1984. On this occasion some houses began to make fantastic predictions and speculations on the issue, talking about internal misunderstanding within the national leadership, and the dismissal of the former prime minister and some members of the government. On this issue, I want to explain that it was aimed rather at restructuring the state machinery and at reinforcing its system of security in order to better safeguard the security of the state against all threats of destabilization which can come from any direction. Thus, all the high-ranking collaborators of the former prime minister were appointed to posts equal to or higher than their former posts. The former prime minister, Col Maayouia Ould Sid Ahmed Taya, was appointed to the highest post of trust, that is the commander inchief of the National Army, which in the present structure of the national leadership is the most important.

In conclusion, our only concern is to protect the interest of our people. The only war that we agree to wage is the one against underdevelopment. This is normal for an underdeveloped country like ours which has resources it cannot exploit because of this war right at our border, and because the insecurity raging in the subregion is seriously holding back our economic and social development.

Our main enemy is the serious drought afflicting our country. When one is struck by disaster, one does not think of making war, no matter where or who, and especially as our people and our economy have suffered from this fratricidal war that is not ours. It is normal that our national leadership is fully aware of these different aspects of the war and has drawn every lesson possible from it. Our greatest wish is that the warring brothers respect our sovereignty and territorial integrity and find a peaceful solution, which we believe is the best thing for the subregion. [end recording]

Beninese Foreign Minister Arrives 22 March

AB230855 Libreville Domestic Service in French
0600 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] The Beninese foreign minister arrived in Libreville yesterday for a 48-hour visit to our country. Coming from Cotonou, the Beninese foreign minister was welcomed at the Leon Mba International Airport by his Gabonese counterpart Mrs Honorine Dossou Naki, minister of state for foreign affairs and cooperation. The talks between the Beninese foreign minister and Gabonese authorities will bear on bilateral relations between Libreville and Cotonou and on the current major issues affecting the African continent.

GHANA

Cuba's Foreign Minister Malmierca Visits

Rawlings Lauds Cuban Role

AB222100 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] The chairman of the Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC], Flight Lieutenant Jerry John Rawlings, has observed that people who object to the presence of Cuban troops, who have been invited to assist in the fight against oppression in some Third World countries, are rather exposing their sympathies for the exploiters. Cuba, he noted, has demonstrated beyond doubt her genuine and outstanding concern for mankind and justice. Besides, Cuba's true racial harmony is an example to other societies. Chairman Rawlings made these remarks when the visiting Cuban Foreign Minister, Mr Isidoro Malmierca, called on him at the Castle, Osu, today.

Flight Lt Rawlings regretted that the mass of the people in the Third World lacked conscious appreciation of the level of exploitation that they had been subjected to over the years. It is the chairman's opinion that we, therefore, took some time for the people to rise up to their responsibilities against this unfortunate situation. Until then, it appears that Cuba would continue to bear a great proportion of the burden through her economic, social, political and military assistance.

Chairman Rawlings condemned South Africa's aggression toward Angola, and the increased designs to stifle the struggle for independence to the people of Namibia. Chairman Rawlings stated that until African or other oppressed Third World nations cleared all hurdles in their internal situations, the hoisting of their national flags as a symbol of independence and sovereignty would be meaningless.

The PNDC coordinating secretary, Mr P.V. Obeng, who was present during the discussions, said he appreciated the role of Cuba in the struggle for independence for Namibia, and urged frontline states, particularly Angola, to be undaunted in order to avoid a recurrence of Grenada.

Malmierca Speaks to Press

AB222123 Accra Domestic Service in English 2000 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] The visiting Cuban foreign minister, Mr Isidoro Malmierca, was today received in audience by the chairman of the Provisional National Defense Council, Flight Lieutenant Jerry John Rawlings at the Castle, Osu.

Speaking to newsmen later, Mr Malmierca said his visit will enable Ghana and Cuba to further intensify their cooperation. He said he discussed with the secretary for foreign affairs, Dr Obed Asamoah, problems facing the OAU, and said under the chairmanship of Colonel Mengistu Haile Mariam of Ethiopia the OAU would surmount its obstacles. Mr Malmierca disclosed that he extended an invitation from President Castro of Cuba to Chairman Rawlings to visit Cuba.

Earlier in the day, Dr Malmierca spent about 1 hour at the Ghana Textiles Printing Company [GTP] at Tema, visiting the various departments. He said Cuba is prepared to share with Ghana her experiences in the textile industry for their mutual benefit. Mr Malmierca said he was highly impressed with the beautiful designs of prints used by the GTP, adding that they are novelty to him. Mr Malmierca said Cuban women would be most pleased to have such a nice product. He praised the GTP workers for their (?devotion) to work, and hoped that with determination they would overcome their problems in no time.

Cooperation Deepens in All Areas

AB221910 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Ghana and Cuba have signed an agreement for cooperation in the information sector of their diplomatic services. This will mean that where one of them has diplomatic missions and the other has not, the one with the mission will supply information relating to the other country to nationals seeking such information.

Under the agreement signed by Ghana's foreign secretary and his visiting Cuban counterpart, Mr Isidoro Malmierca, yesterday, the countries' foreign ministries may also exchange information in areas of mutual interest.

There has been a long history of cooperation between Ghana and Cuba dating back to the days of the First Republic under Dr Kwame Nkrumah. This cooperation has suffered certain ups and downs depending on the political orientation of the government in power in Ghana.

It is heartening to note that cooperation has increased in the last few years to the mutual advantage of the two countries. It has been particularly noticeable in the cultural field where Cuban musicians and other artists have performed in Ghana at various times during the First Republic and again after the 31 December revolution.

Cooperation is also evident in education. Thus most spectacular of all, as many as 600 Ghanaian pupils are undergoing various courses on the Isle of Youth near Havana to (?fit) them for a useful life back home. It is significant that the type of education being given our youth is practically oriented unlike our own white collar elite-type of education which only motivates our school leavers to expect privileges from and not to serve society. It is true that more of our youth will have a chance to go to Cuba to taste this kind of education so that as they are liberated from the colonial mentality they will become an example that will sweep away the old concept of education.

The cooperation is not limited to culture and education alone. Cuban doctors and paramedical personnel are right now helping to man some of our hospitals and clinics where everybody has testified to their hard work and expertise.

There is also some Cuban help in the agricultural sector. The Cuban technical assistance to Ghana has been made possible under the Cuban revolution's policy of (?proliferate) internationalism. By this policy Cuba sent her sons and daughters to young countries striving to achieve social justice and economic progress. It was under this policy that Cuba sent soldiers, doctors, agriculturists and other experts to Angola to help the country build the foundations for true independence in the face of her hostile neighbor, South Africa. It was again this policy that made it possible to send similar help to Ethiopia. We all remember how the Ethiopian revolution defeated the reactionary invasion of the Ogaden region by Somalia in 1978 through the help of Cuban troops.

Everywhere the Cuban policy is pursued in the developing world the effect is to strengthen the independence of young nations. This it does by the force of examples under the psychological impact of where she began, the difficulties she faced and still faces and where she has reached today.

Imperialist propaganda wants to paint Cuba as a surrogate of the Soviet Union in order to make Third World countries avoid her. But the evidence proves this to be wrong and that Cuba is a Third World nonaligned multiracial nation that has proved that the path of self-reliance in economic development is a viable one.

LIBERIA

World Bank Approves $11.4 Million for Road Projects

AB222046 Monrovia Domestic Service in English
1900 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] The World Bank has approved a credit facility of $11.4 million for Liberia to undertake road maintenance in various parts of the country.

A release from the UNDP [United Nationsl Development Program] Monrovia office issued in Monrovia today said the road maintenance project is aimed at improving Liberia's road network and strengthening the Ministry of Public Works road maintenance scheme. The release said part of the money will be used to upgrade the ministry's administrative staff and provide technical assistance in the area of road maintenance.

NIGERIA

Egypt's Ghali on Boundaries, Chad, Arab League

AB221010 Lagos NAN in English 0957 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Lagos, Mar 21 [NAN]— Any attempt to alter the existing international boundaries of Africa will cause unprecedented crisis, the Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, Dr Butrus Ghali, said today in Lagos. Addressing a news conference at the end of his three-day official visit to Nigeria, Dr Ghali said that the OAU had agreed to respect the existing boundaries.

On Chad, Dr Ghali said that his country was seeking ways to bring Goukouni Oueddei and Hissein Habre to a conference table, saying that it was in everybody's interest that the two sides should meet. "Since Habre and Goukouni had worked together before, they can do so again," Dr Ghali said.

He said that Egypt had no intention of joining the Arab League again because the league was "a decadent and bankrupt organization."

Commentary Assesses S. Africa-Mozambique Pact

AB221318 Lagos International Service in English
0930 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] Despite the hue and cry against any rapprochement between independent African states and apartheid South Africa and particularly regardless of stiff opposition from the African National Congress, ANC, as well as strong protest from the liberation movements in Africa, Mozambique went ahead last Friday to sign a nonaggression pact with apartheid South Africa. To every keen observer of developments in southern Africa, two things stand very clearly about the pact. For one thing, Mozambique, led by an African nationalist of the caliber of Dr Samora Machel, must have been driven to the wall by the realities of her economic and political situation. For another, taking advantage of these problems, the racist government in Pretoria picked on them to execute its grand design openly, aided and abetted by the United States and its Western allies.

Last Friday's treaty provides that Mozambique, which has for a decade been giving a boost to the nationalist fighters of the ANC in their struggle against the oppressive rule of the apartheid clique, shall now stop the same ANC forces from using her territory to launch attacks on the racists. On her own part, South Africa is to reciprocate by preventing the antigovernment forces from staging their attacks on Mozambique from South African territory.

The signing of the agreement climaxed 3 months of intensive diplomacy and behind-the-scenes negotiations involving Portugal, the United States, and the frontline African states. A careful appraisal of the details of the accord will, however, show clearly that the whole idea is calculated to enable South Africa to obtain similar commitments from Angola with the view to securing a total griphold on southern Africa. The assumption of the racist government is that when this is achieved, it will be in a better position to prevent the attainment of independence for Namibia as provided for in the United Nations resolution on this subject. This, the racist government believes, will (?result) in alienating the SWAPO from its (?far bases), particularly from the frontline African states. South Africa also believes erroneously that the denial of fighting bases for the forces of the ANC will continue to guarantee her a free hand to perpetrate her apartheid policy inside South Africa itself unchallenged.

The question, however, is: Can Mozambique be really blamed for signing the nonaggression treaty with South Africa? Considering the stark realities staring President Machel in the face, the answer is definitively negative. For decades, Mozambique has borne the brunt of economic and political hardships resulting from her giving sanctuary to the South African nationalist

fighters. The effect of this and those arising from other natural and unnatural disasters has, no doubt, [words indistinct] no room for maneuver any longer. And now that the agreement has been signed and sealed, the ball is back in the court of the OAU. Its dented and declining image can be rescued if it can rise up to this new challenge. Its founding fathers must do something and that must be quickly.

World Bank Loans 16.7 Million Naira for Gas Project

AB222042 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Nigeria has obtained a World Bank loan of about 16.7 million naira to speed up the development of the country's gas resources. A statement in Lagos signed by the bank's resident representative, Eichright Houssein, said the loan would, among other things, assist the country in preparing the first major infrastructure project in the gas sector. It will also cover the basic engineering requirements of the [word indistinct] Lagos pipeline ELP gas system. The ELP gas system is described as the government's highest priority project in the energy sector.

The statement said that the loan agreement provided for an extensive program to train Nigerian National Petroleum Company staff to reinforce their capacity to handle the existing gas system and other development projects being planned. The country's gas reserves are estimated at about 85 trillion standard cubic feet.

The World Bank loan is for 17 years, including 4 years' grace with a variable interest rate.

Millions in Oil Revenues Lost to 'Illegal Liftings'

AB212152 Lagos Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] Nigeria has lost millions of naira as a result of illegal liftings of its crude oil products which reached alarming proportions in 1982. The head of state, Major General Muhammadu Buhari, who disclosed this today while receiving the president of ELF Oil Company of France, M. Pecquer, at Dodan Barracks, said that the Federal Military Government had decided to consider only known and credible customers for Nigerian oil in order to ensure effective monitoring. Gen Buhari stressed the determination of the administration to continue its investment in the exploration and development of the oil industry in spite of the recession. Mr Pecquer had earlier briefed the head of state on the activities of his company in Nigeria and its future development plans.

Also today at Dodan Barracks, the president of the Peugeot automobile company, Jacques Calvert, called on the head of state. Gen Buhari assured the president that the Federal Government would look into the problems of his company to ensure that he did not retrench the workers. The head of state was briefed by Mr Calvert on the problems facing Peugeot Automobile (Nigeria), particularly the lack of sufficient spare parts for the industry.

Labor Official Supports FMG Purge of Trade Unions

AB221842 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] The Federal Military Government [FMG] has been advised to involve relevant trade unions in future purge exercises. In an interview with a Radio Nigeria labor correspondent in Lagos today, the general secretary of the customs, excise, and immigration staff union, Bernard Odulanor, said that the purge exercise was desireable to remove dead roots and incompetent staff, thereby strengthening the machinery of government. He recommended that the FMG should continue with the purge, adding that the exercise would improve morality and discipline in the public service. Mr Odulanor called on all Nigerians to support the campaign launched recently by the FMG against indiscipline in the country.

Actions Against Illegal Aliens in Sokoto, Plateau

343 Deported From Sokoto

AB220956 Lagos NAN in English 0935 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Sokoto, Mar 21 [NAN] — The immigration department in Sokoto said today that it had deported 343 illegal immigrants arrested within the last two days in the state capital.

The state assistant director of immigration, Mohammadu Dan Mallam, told newsmen that the immigrants were nationals of some neighbouring countries. He said that the people were arrested during joint operations of the immigration department, the police and the Nigerian Security Organization.

The director said that reports were being expected from Gusau and Argungu sectors where similar operations were going on. Mr. Dan Mallam said that the operations which began yesterday would continue until April 7.

The director suggested that the federal government should promulgate a decree which would make it possible to punish Nigerians aiding and abetting illegal immigrants.

Plateau Officials Search Capital

AB221850 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] In Plateau State, a combined team of immigration officials and policemen have raided hotels in Jos Metropolis in search of illegal aliens. Reports say that most of the hotels in the state capital have been vacated as the law enforcement agents (?took) away a majority of the female occupants in the operation. The assistant director of immigration in the state, Alhaji Abubakari Djaka, confirmed that some arrests were made and that there were plans to deport those who had no valid documents.

Imo State To Try Political Detainees Soon

AB221848 Lagos Domestic Service in English
1500 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] All political detainees in Imo State are soon to appear before a military tribunal. The state's military governor, Brigadier E.K. Nwachukwu, said at a news conference in Owerri that the action followed the promulgation of the Recovery of Public Properties Special Tribunals Decree 1984 by the Federal Military Government. He said a number of former political office holders in the state were being rearrested on charges ranging from misappropriation of public funds to abuse of office.

TOGO

Niger President Talks to Press Before Leaving

AB222052 Lome Domestic Service in French
1230 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] Before leaving Lome this morning on board his command plane, President Seyni Kountche talked to the press in the VIP lounge of the airport about the various issues examined during the talks he held with President Gnassingbe Eyadema:

[Begin recording] First, I would like to tell you that it is always a great pleasure for me to visit Togo to (?see) my friend and brother General Eyadema as well as the people of Togo. In an uncertain and unstable world which is also full of worries, I think the best weapon we have is exchanges of views which can enable us to discuss the economic and political problems facing our subregion and our continent and even beyond.

Despite the shortness of the visit, we exchanged views on the development of the situation in our respective countries. Concerning the economic field, we are becoming increasingly aware of the lack of justice in the distribution of wealth in this world [words indistinct].

It is true that in the political field — a few months before major conferences such as that of the ECOWAS with its fund headquarters in Togo which is also one of the founding members of the organization and on the eve of the [OAU] summit conference in Conakry — we exchanged views in order to find the ways and means of strengthening this organization taking into account the objectives for which it was created.

We must also bear in mind that we are gradually approaching the opening of the 20th summit of the OAU, and I made it a point to exchange views with General Eyadema concerning the Chadian issue and the Western Saharan issue. We also talked about the present development of the situation in the eastern part of our continent. We noted the agreement concluded between Mozambique and South Africa as well as the attempts made concerning either Angola or Namibia's progress toward independence. As far as the Middle East is concerned, we greatly appreciate the Lausanne conference and wish that it may achieve positive results in the interest of the (?people) and the strengthening of the unity and the sovereignty of Lebanon.

I must tell you that although Togo is not a member of the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel [ICDCS], we belong with Togo [words indistinct] to the family of the Entente Council. Niger and Upper Volta are nevertheless members of the ICDCS. That is why I made it a point to tell General Eyadema the reasons why I went to Ouagadougou to visit the ICDCS headquarters. That is to tell you, the Togolese press, that if perhaps I forget some issues, in fact we did not forget any of the issues, political or economic, and of course the issues related to the strengthening of relations between Niger and Togo. [passage indistinct]

I am anxious to thank the hard-working people of Lome and their dynamic youth and all their officials for — I do not say the fraternal but — the friendly reception accorded me and my delegation. [end recording]

UPPER VOLTA

Mauritanian Envoy Delivers Haydala Message

AB222105 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French
1300 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] The head of state, Comrade Thomas Sankara, this morning received in audience the ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania. After the audience, His Excellency Sass Ould Guig first of all told reporters about the aim of his visit to the head of state and later answered questions from them:

[Begin recording] It is true I have just been received in audience by head of state President Thomas Sankara to whom I delivered a message from his brother and friend, Lieutenant Colonel Mohamed Khouna Haydala, chairman of the CMSN and head of state of Mauritania. The message, is of course, related to the fraternal and friendly relations between Upper Volta and Mauritania. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Upper Voltan Government for the warm and brotherly reception accorded me.

[Unidentified reporter] Your Excellency, our question is: How do you envisage the next OAU summit?

[Ould Guig] As you know, this is a very embarassing question. Certainly, I cannot give you the answer you expect of me. The holding and success of the OAU summit depend exclusively on the heads of state who have been able to surmount their difficulties. There is no reason that this time they will not be able to surmount those difficulties.

[Reporter] Talking about difficulties, what could be your country's position if the SDAR is not admitted, as in previous cases, into the forum of the heads of state?

[Ould Guig] It is true that Mauritania has just recognized in all sovereignty the SDAR. Its position will certainly be like those of other states that have recognized it before us.

[Reporter] In what fields do you intend to intensify the cooperation between your country and ours?

[Ould Guig] Cooperation between Upper Volta and Mauritania has always been very good. You ask me in what field. I don't know if you are aware that in Ouagadougou, Bobo Dioulasso, or Madagogo which I visited last time, there are large Mauritanian communities. And they are engaged in local trade and rearing of cattle and live together with the Upper Voltans as their brothers and friends. That is why I say cooperation exists not only in this field but also in other fields of interest to Africans. [end recording]

Teachers Strike To Obtain Release of Union Leaders

AB221130 Paris AFP in English 1114 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Ouagadougou, Mar 22 [AFP] — The government has dismissed two days of strikes among teachers in Upper Volta, aimed at obtaining the release of three of their union leaders, as "manoeuvres of imperialism to destabilise the revolution."

But the authorities here admitted that the response to the strike call by the National Union of African Teachers of Upper Volta had exceeded the 10 percent forecast by officials.

The Education Ministry said that 23 percent of teachers had struck in Ouagadougou, 38 percent in Bobo-Dioulasso, the country's second city, and between 9 and 15 percent elsewhere. In some towns there had been no response whatever, it said.

The union claimed 48 percent in Ouagadougou, 80 percent at Bobo-Dioulasso and up to 100 percent in some places. Some reports difficult to verify said there had been a strong response in the western province of Souro, the home region of exiled opposition leader Joseph Ki-Zerbo.

Captain Blaise Compaore, number two in the radical military regime here, said that thousands of dollars had been handed out to members of the progressive Voltan Front, which Mr Ki-Zerbo once headed, to provoke agitation.

Captain Compaore hit out at a recent appearance by Mr Ki-Zerbo on French television, in an attack on France's alleged sympathy to exiles. It was echoed by other speakers at an organised demonstration of schoolchildren here yesterday against "imperialist manoeuvres."

One representative of the local revolutionary defence councils in secondary schools, Jean-Marie Simpore, called on the ruling National Revolutionary Council to undertake a "purge" at the French Embassy in Ouagadougou, adding, "Otherwise we will do it ourselves."

The teachers' union rejected the accusations against it and said the results of the strike had encouraged it to consider "new forms of democratic struggle" to obtain the release of its leaders.

Union Secretary General Jean Bila, one of his deputies Usman Ismael Kindo, and Foreign Relations secretary Joachim Sib were arrested on March 9 in a reversal of the government's declared policy not to act against trade unions which opposed it. The three arrested were accused of accepting cash from foreign groups and opposition figures in exile. They are being held at Koudougou, 100 kilometres (65 miles) west of here, and according to the union are being well-treated.

ANGOLA

FAPLA: Offensive Results in 151 UNITA Troops Killed

MB230722 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] A total of 151 UNITA criminals have been killed by the Angolan national army during offensive operations carried out by the People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FAPLA] in Cuando-Cubango and Bie Provinces over the past few days. During the operations dozens of peasants who had been abducted by UNITA criminals from their residential areas and held in detention under appalling living conditions were released.

Authorized military sources in those provinces told ANGOP that 150 puppets were killed southeast of the municipality of Cuito-Cuanavale in Cuando-Cubango, and another criminal was killed while desperately trying to evade the FAPLA forces in the area of Nharea, in Bie Province. In other two regions of that province, namely Kuito and Cuemba, three criminals were captured during the operations launched by the Angolan combatants. All these offensive operations enabled the capture of a large quantity of arms and ammunitions and assorted war materiel, including rucksacks, maps, documents, and transmission devices.

It will be recalled that another eight UNITA criminals were killed by FAPLA forces during recent clashes in the (Lovue) area in the 10th military region. In the encounters, the bandits left several arms and a large quantity of ammunitions on the battleground. A week ago about 30 km from the limits of the Huambo district, FAPLA forces killed an undisclosed number of criminals and captured arms and ammunitions.

Regime Said Seeking Western Aid To Combat UNITA

AB221240 Paris AFP in English 1209 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Luanda, Mar 22 (AFP) — Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos' Marxist regime is seeking Western economic cooperation, mainly in the petroleum sector, to finance the costly war against the South Africa-backed UNITA rebels.

Angola produced about 11 million tons of petroleum in 1983, second to Nigeria in black Africa. Sales of oil to foreign buyers last year brought in 1.7 billion dollars, accounting for 90 percent of the nation's exports.

Three-fourths of the nation's oil is pumped from offshore wells near Cabinda in the north of the country where Gulf Oil and the Angolan petroleum company, Sonangol, are engaged in a joint venture. The United States is the main buyer of Angolan oil.

A large portion of the foreign currency earnings is spent on equipping the national army and maintaining some 18,000 Cuban troops and several thousand advisers from the Soviet Union and other Eastern bloc countries who are helping the regime in the face of attacks by the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola under Jonas Savimbi.

The People's Assembly is expected to tab about three billion dollars, representing 30 percent of the 1984 budget, for national defense, a reliable source here said. The same source added that "at least" 60 percent of the government's expenditures affect directly or indirectly the military sector.

Although Luanda looks to the socialist bloc for arms and technical cooperation, most of Angola's foreign trade is carried out with the West, the United States in particular.

France also has penetrated deeply into the Angolan market in recent years, with exports totalling 640 million dollars and imports 7 million dollars in 1983.

France's low level of Angolan imports is the result of a halt in oil purchases several months ago. But France's Elf-Aquitaine oil company has discovered several deposits totaling about 40 million tons off the northern coast of Angola, and production is expected to begin in 1985 at the rate of two million tons annually. French oil interests are planning to make the small town of Ambriz, north of Luanda, a regional center for the construction of petroleum drilling platforms.

Before the end of the decade, Angolan oil production could reach 20 million tons.

Other natural wealth which Angola possesses includes minerals, agricultural and grazing land, and fishing grounds, all underexploited because of the civil war. For example, Angolan coffee production has fallen from 2 million tons in 1975, when the country gained independence from Portugal, to 20,000 tons last year. But Angola will not begin to develop economically before the civil war ends, observers said.

Sharpeville Anniversary Draws Call for End to Racism

AB221100 Luanda ANGOP in French 1821 GMT 21 Mar 84

[ANGOP commentary: "25 Years After..."]

[Text] Luanda, 21 Mar (ANGOP) — It is 25 years ago since the racist South African authorities dispersed in an inhuman manner peaceful African demonstrators marching down the streets in protest against racial discrimination and oppression.

But the gunshots heard on 21 March in the South African town of Sharpeville still remain fresh in human memory. This why the whole world today is celebrating the International Day of Struggle for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, in accordance with the decision of the UN General Assembly.

This bloody crime was committed in the South African Republic, where racial discrimination and oppression have been laid down as a state policy and where the idea of the "biological supremacy of the whites" permeates the entire social life and is confirmed by racist legislation. The "apartheid" policy, the severe police terror against the blacks in the country, and the incontestable acts of aggression against neighboring African states confer on the South African Republic the typical characteristics of the fascist "reich."

It is an open secret that the political-military machinery of the "apartheid" state was set in motion and continues to be strengthened with the active support of the most reactionary imperialist circles, notably in the United States. The Reagan administration is strictly pursuing the policy of "constructive collaboration" with the Pretoria regime and is doing all in its power to strengthen its aggressive power.

The close alliance between Washington and Pretoria is not only due to the rapacious interests of the North American monopolies but also to the strategic military goals of the White House, which considers the South African racists as sure partners in the implementation of its neocolonial policy on the African Continent as well as an instrument of vulgar pressure and blackmail against sovereign African states.

For the purpose of achieving their objectives in Africa, Washington and Pretoria use all means of financial pressure, diplomatic maneuvers, and even open armed aggression. Africans in the neighboring "frontline" countries know very well that the South Africans are still the sworn enemies of the independence and freedom of the peoples of Africa, although they are trying to hide their true nature.

African statesmen are perfectly right when they say: "As long as the racist enclave of aggression thrives in the south of the African Continent, Africans can never live in peace and security."

This is why, while celebrating the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the peoples of Africa must strive to put an end to racism and apartheid, thus showing their militant and unconditional solidarity with and support for the African nationalists fighting for the liberation of southern Africa under the leadership of the ANC and the SWAPO.

BOTSWANA

Masire Greets Envoy, Lauds French SADCC Support

MB230804 Johannesburg International Service in English 0630 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] President Quett Masire of Botswana says his country appreciates the support that France is giving to the people of southern Africa in their quest for peace, freedom, and justice. President Masire was speaking at a reception for the new French ambassador to Botswana, Mr Yves Plattard. He said relations between Botswana and France were good, and there was a desire that they should be strengthened. He also thanked France for its efforts to promote the objectives of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference.

President Masire To Visit U.S., Sweden 2-10 May

MB221917 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1502 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Gaborone, March 22, SAPA — The Botswana president, Dr Quett Masire, is to visit Sweden and the United States in May. A foreign affairs spokesman said Dr Masire and his wife, Gladys, will pay an official working visit to America from May 7-10 at the invitation of President Ronald Reagan and his wife. The two leaders are to meet at the White House on May 9. Dr Masire will be accompanied by the foreign minister, Mr Archie Mogwe. Prior to his visit to America, Dr Masire is to visit Sweden from May 2-5.

No Nonaggression Pact To Be Signed With RSA

MB230814 Umtata Capital Radio in English 0600 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] Botswana has quashed speculation that it was planning to sign a nonaggression pact with South Africa. The speculation followed yesterday's high-level talks between the two countries in Cape Town. A government spokesperson in Gaborone said the talks had nothing to do with security. He said the discussions focused on economic matters. He also said Botswana had no intention of entering into a nonaggression pact with South Africa.

LESOTHO

Committee Rejects Nonaggression Pacts With RSA

MB221717 Maseru Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] The Lesotho Peace and Solidarity Committee has called for the rejection of the peace initiatives and nonaggression pacts which the Pretoria regime wants to impose on the black states of southern Africa. The call was made by the administrative secretary of the movement, Mr (Mujakiswani Tsita), in Maseru on Wednesday of this week at an occasion to commemorate the Sharpeville massacre. He said these pacts can only compromise the struggle for freedom in South Africa and Namibia.

Mr (Tsita) said that to the black people the Sharpeville affair is a mark in the long struggle for the freedom of black people in South Africa. After Sharpeville there have been others, and he cited Soweto, Matola, Maseru, and Angola. He also applauded the Lesotho Government for its principled stand against these pacts. The occasion was organized by the UN Information Office to mark the 24th anniversary of the Sharpeville massacre on Wednesday this week. Sixty-nine unarmed demonstrators were killed and 186 injured by the South African police.

MOZAMBIQUE

Foreign Minister Chissano Says ANC Still 'Comrade'

OW221043 Tokyo KYODO in English 0911 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Tokyo, March 22 KYODO — Mozambique Foreign Minister Joaquim Chissano said here Thursday his country will continue to support the African National Congress (ANC) despite the nonaggression treaty it signed with South Africa last week. Speaking at a press conference, he also stressed Mozambique would not hold its tongue against South Africa's apartheid politics.

Chissano said ANC remained a comrade, although its activities and movements to liberate the blacks in South Africa would be influenced by the new treaty that ended nine years of hostility between Mozambique and South Africa.

The treaty, he said, will hold South Africa's aggressive policies in check and will allow Mozambique to concentrate on its economic development. His country made the selection to avert further spreading of armed conflicts in southern Africa.

On prospects of economic cooperation with South Africa, the foreign minister said Mozambique has been linked with South Africa in port and railway services, as well as in manpower supply. These economic connections could help solidify the foundation of Mozambique's independence, he added.

Answering questions about reports of his country's dissatisfaction with Soviet economic aid, Chissano said relations with Moscow were smooth, although its assistance still fell short, as did those from Japan and other nations.

South Africa has so far taken policies of weakening neighboring black socialist countries, but it has begun to learn how to coexist with them. That was a major factor behind the nonaggression treaty, he said.

Chissano, who conferred with Japanese Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe early this week, is scheduled to leave Japan Monday.

Maputo Reports Chissano Statement

MB231207 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] Despite the Nkomati accord, Mozambique is going to continue to give political, moral, and diplomatic support to the South African ANC. This has been explained by Minister of Foreign Affairs Joaquim Chissano at a press conference in Tokyo. Joaquim Chissano said that although Mozambique has signed the nonaggression and good neighborliness accord with South Africa, this does not mean that it has ceased to condemn the apartheid system. The head of Mozambique foreign policy defended the view that the Nkomati accord would allow the country to focus its attentions and energies on development programs.

Meeting With Japan's Abe

For a KYODO report on Foreign Minister Joaquim Chissano's meeting with Japanese Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe, see the Japan section of the 21 March Asia and Pacific *DAILY REPORT*.

OAU Official Sees Machel, Supports Nkomati Pact

MB230957 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0800 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] In Maputo yesterday, President Samora Machel received Hashim Mbita, executive secretary of the OAU Liberation Committee. On the occasion, Hashim Mbita expressed his total support for the Nkomati accord, calling it an instrument to strengthen national independence and the Mozambique state.

Malawi, Zimbabwe Officials Visit Port Facilities

MB221515 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1100 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Ministers from two landlocked southern African countries are in Mozambique to look at the country's ports and related facilities. Edward Bwanali, Malawi's minister of transport and communications, arrived in Mozambique a week ago and has toured the ports of Maputo, Matola, Nacala, Quelimane, and Beira. Mr Bwanali attended the signing of the Nkomati accord between Mozambique and South Africa last Friday, and later commented that Malawi had a special interest in seeing the accord succeed. Malawi's key foreign trade route to the port of Beira has been disrupted by armed bandits operating with South African support. This support should now end under the terms of the Nkomati accord. Beira was the last stop of Mr Bwanali's tour and he is due to return to Malawi this afternoon.

The other visitor to Mozambique's ports is Zimbabwe's minister of state for energy development, Oliver Munyaradzi, who arrived in Maputo last night for a 3-day visit. Dr Munyaradzi said the main aim of his visit was to tour the ports of Maputo and Beira and familiarize himself with energy facilities there. He will visit the oil refinery at Matola, near Maputo, and a fuel terminal at Beira port. Zimbabwe's fuel imports arrive at this terminal and are then sent by pipeline to storage tanks near the Zimbabwean town of Mutare. Dr Munyaradzi said he expected to exchange ideas with the Mozambique authorities on broadening bilateral relations, and he stressed the importance of their cooperation within the Southern African Development Coordination Conference [SADCC]. Mozambique, Zimbabwe, and Malawi are among the nine members of SADCC.

Malawi Minister Addresses Press

MB230830 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0430 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] Malawi's minister of transport and communications said at a press conference held yesterday in Beira, provincial capital of Sofala, that his country does not constitute, nor will it be, a base for destabilization against the People's Republic of Mozambique. At the press conference, which was held at the end of his working visit to Sofala Province, the Malawian minister said that his country supports the nonaggression and good neighborliness accord signed by the Governments of Mozambique and South Africa on 16 March. He stressed that his presence at the signing ceremony was proof of that.

Referring to the reduction of his country's import and export traffic through Mozambique ports and railroads, the minister of transport and communication of Malawi said this was due to the activities of the armed bandits, and has resulted in serious economic problems for his country.

While in Beira, the Malawian minister signed the minutes of a transportation agreement with Mozambique. He has since returned to his own country. Mozambique was represented by Alcantara Santos, minister of ports, railways, and shipping.

Nkomati Accord Does Not Remove 'Obstacle to Peace'
MB221411 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1100 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] At a moment in history when attempts to end armed conflicts in various parts of the world are failing spectacularly, the Nkomati accord between Mozambique and South Africa is a beacon of hope for peace. It has not removed the fundamental contradiction between the two states which is rooted in one hard fact: The Mozambique state believes in the equality of all its citizens, while the South African state is founded on a conception of racial inequality.

Despite this contradiction, two states have agreed to coexist in peace and good neighborliness. This does not mean that Mozambique is now obliged to give its blessing to apartheid nor that South Africa is expected to approve of Mozambique's doctrine of racial equality, but it does mean that they have agreed not to go to war over the issue. This is the culmination of years of effort by Mozambique to ensure peace between states in the region, and the Governments of both Mozambique and South Africa have indicated in statements that they intend to make the agreement stick.

If South Africa will now scrupulously observe its obligations on Angola, and if it will implement UN resolutions on Namibia, the prospects for regional peace will be even brighter. But the problem of apartheid will remain and as long as it remains there will always be a source of conflict in South Africa. Apartheid discriminates against the overwhelming majority of the South African population who will therefore struggle against it with the political, moral, and diplomatic support of the international community, including Mozambique.

The Nkomati accord does not change this. No agreement the South African Government signs with another state will stop the internal struggle in South Africa. It is not Mozambique's struggle, it is not Angola's, it is not Lesotho's, it is not Zimbabwe's, it is not Swaziland's. It is the struggle of the South African majority for justice and equality. The denial of these rights remains the obstacle to peace in South Africa itself.

Women's Federation Expresses Support For ANC
MB221722 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0800 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] At a meeting in Maputo yesterday with the grassroots units of the Organization of Mozambique Women, Mirjam Vire-Tuominen, secretary general of the Women's International Democratic Federation [WIDF], reaffirmed his organization's solidarity with the women and people of Mozambique. The delegation, led by Mirjam Vire-Tuominen, also held a meeting yesterday with women of the ANC women's wing to gather information on aspects of the struggling being waged by the South African people to bring an end to apartheid. During the meeting, the solidarity of women and WIDF with the South African women and all people who struggle for equality and justice was also reaffirmed.

NAMIBIA

SWANU Leader: SWAPO Planning MPC Breakup
MB221555 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] The president of the South-West African National Union [SWANU], Mr Moses Katjioungua, says the SWAPO leader, Mr Sam Nujoma, is now working desperately to break up the Multiparty Conference [MPC] on the future of South-West Africa/Namibia. He said Mr Nujoma was doing this because, as he put it, the MPC stood a good chance to turn Mr Nujoma's wild dreams into nightmares.

Speaking in Windhoek, Mr Kajioungua alleged that infiltration and bribery of members and leaders of the political parties which belong to the MPC was part of SWAPO's plan to destroy the conference. He said SWANU was a victim of what he called despicable tricks. Mr Katjioungua said that three SWANU officials had been taken to Lusaka earlier this month without the knowledge of their party's leadership. He alleged that the officials had been given about $1,600 and pocket money to destroy SWANU. Mr Katjioungua said a visit by a SWANU delegation to Lusaka had been cancelled last week when SWAPO required SWANU to denounce and leave the MPC of South- West Africa/Namibia. He said SWAPO invited SWANU to hold talks with Mr Nujoma and some of his followers in Zambia.

British Detainee To Be Charged or Released 'Soon'
MB221706 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1000 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] South Africa has assured Britain that the English metallurgist who has been detained in Namibia for three weeks will soon be released or charged. Metallurgist Alan Roberts is a former research student from Warwick University. British Foreign Minister Malcolm Rifkind has said he has received an assurance from the South African Government that Roberts will shortly be released or charged with a specific offense.

SOUTH AFRICA

Pik Botha Cites 'Alternatives' to UN Resolution 435
MB221303 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1259 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Cape Town, March 22, SAPA — If failure to obtain a Cuban withdrawal from Angola made the implementation of United Nations Resolution 435 impossible, other alternatives

would have to be found, preferably with international recognition, the minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, said in Cape Town today.

South Africa had consistently made it clear that Resolution 435 could not be implemented unless an agreement on Cuban withdrawal was reached, he said.

He was reacting to a report in *THE WASHINGTON POST* today in which the administrator general of SWA/Namibia, Dr Willie van Niekerk, was reported to have said South Africa was no longer interested in implementing Resolution 435 and that other alternatives should be considered. The minister said he had personally contacted Dr van Niekerk on the report and had been assured it did not accurately reflect the discussion Dr van Niekerk had held with a representative of *THE POST*. The administrator general had been asked what the position would be if the Cuban forces did not withdraw from Angola and had replied that he did not like speculation, but if they did not withdraw, Resolution 435 could not be implemented and in the circumstances it would be necessary to consider alternatives.

"In my opinion the adminstrator general correctly conveyed the South African Government's position on this matter to the newspaper concerned," Mr Botha said. "The South African Government has consistently made it clear that Resolution 435 could not be implemented unless an agreement was reached on Cuban withdrawal. Obviously, if such an agreement cannot be reached an alternative way of achieving the territory's independence will have to be found — preferably with international recognition. I must emphasise once again that this is the South African Government's position, and it has also consistently been the South African Government's position that the leaders of SWA/Namibia will themselves have to decide their future, and if the parties currently participating in the multi-party conference and others who may still join the M.P.C., together with SWAPO, come to an agreement, the South African Government will not stand in the way of the implementation of such an agreement," Mr Botha said.

Foreign Minister Meets With Botswana Counterpart

MB221202 Johannesburg International Service in English 1100 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] High-level talks between South Africa and Botswana are being held in Cape Town. The South African delegation is headed by the minister of foreign affairs, Mr Roelof Botha, and the Botswana delegation by his counterpart, Mr Archie Mogwe. Radio RSA political news staff have said several senior officers of the South African security services and the Botswana Defense Force are attending the talks. At the end of last month, South Africa and Botswana also held talks in Cape Town to exchange views on current economic and other developments.

Mogwe Confirms SWAPO Crossings

MB230703 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] The Botswana minister of external affairs, Mr Archie Mogwe, says anyone using Botswana as a launching pad for attacks against other countries is a threat to Botswana's security. Mr Mogwe said the Government of Botswana was concerned about the country's security.

He referred to reports about SWAPO terrorists having crossed into South-West Africa and Botswana, and confirmed that the reports of that particular crossing were true.

A joint statement issued after the Cape Town talks said the two delegations had formulated a proposal which would be submitted to their respective governments for consideration. The South African delegation was headed by the minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha.

ANC Communique on RSA 'Bantustanization' of Region

AB221300 Dakar PANA in French 1037 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Lusaka, 22 Mar (ANC/PANA) — The National Executive Committee of the ANC has met to examine the prevailing situation in southern Africa. At the end of the meeting, the committee issued a communique, of which we present the important points:

In recent weeks, the racist and colonialist regime of South Africa has been engaged in a diplomatic, political and propagandist counteroffensive in southern Africa. This counteroffensive was mainly aimed at:

— Isolating the ANC in southern Africa and forcing the independent states in the region to do according to the wishes of Pretoria in order to weaken the ANC, which is the vanguard movement for the struggle for national emancipation in South Africa;

— Liquidating the armed struggle for the liberation of South Africa;

— Conquering new bridgeheads in its efforts to undermine the unity among the frontline states, destroying the Southern African Development Coordination Conference and replacing it with a constellation of states, therefore transforming the independent states in southern Africa into states that will be dependent on it, and destroying the prestige of the frontline states, with the aim of reducing the global isolation of South Africa and recovering the legitimacy of its regime and of its colonialism and fascism.

By inviting them to sign the nonaggression pact with Pretoria, the statement continues, Botha's regime wants to reduce the independent states of our region to the level of the bantustans that it has created, by forcing them to join these same bantustans of Transkei, Bophuthatswana, Venda, and Ciskei.

Such agreements, the communique adds, signed with a regime which has no moral or legal right to govern our country, can only perpetrate the illegitimate right of a minority of white immigrants in South Africa. It is exactly for this reason that this minority has for all these years tried to tie up independent Africa with such agreements.

The ANC is deeply aware of the enormous political, economic, and security problems facing many persons in our region. The fault lies solely with Pretoria, which has sought to define the limits of the independence of the frontline nations by practicing a policy of aggression and destabilization.

We are convinced that this regime, which is soaked with the blood of thousands of people that it has murdered all over southern Africa, cannot claim to [words indistinct] the summit of frontline states which was held in Maputo in March 1982. That summit issued a communique which called on the frontline states to intensify their material and diplomatic support to the SWAPO and the ANC — the national liberation movements in southern Africa — to enable them to strengthen their armed struggle and obtain independence for their peoples.

The statement contained in the communique was made knowing fully that [words indistinct] Africans to pursue their offensive under the leadership of the ANC, using all means, and with the sole aim of destroying the criminal regime and returning power to the masses. We are and remain faithful to this principle.

If Pretoria continues to behave the way it is doing now, it is only trying to find a way out of the crisis its racist and colonial system must face. It hopes that after appeasing our neighbors and keeping the ANC away from the region, it will have free hands to suppress the democratic movement of the masses of our country, and by so doing, to create favorable conditions to elaborate more cunning ways to strengthen the apartheid system.

Our major objective, more then ever before, must aim at the intensification of the political and military struggle within South Africa. This is the urgent call we are making to our popular masses to all democratic organizations and to all Umkhonto we Sizwe combat units of the ANC. We will continue our struggle until victory and the destruction of the system of colonial domination by the white minority in our country are achieved.

Today, the focal issues of politics in southern Africa is the overthrow of the white minority regime and the seizing of power by the people in order to make a clean sweep of the apartheid system characterized by a racist and colonial domination, a fascist tyranny, overexploitation of the black majority, imperialist aggressions and expansionism. This issue will be settled sooner or later, but it is heading toward a settlement through the struggle we are waging within our country and elsewhere.

We expect all anticolonial and antiracist forces to join us and make this noble cause succeed. From their experience, the South African people know that there can never be peaceful coexistence between freedom and independence on the one hand and colonialism and racism on the other.

We are convinced that the popular masses, which through their parties and their governments have for so many years demonstrated their commitment to fight until the total liberation of Africa is achieved, will remain faithful to this cause and show solidarity with our people until final victory is achieved.

We are convinced that the rest of Africa and the progressive world community will never support the legitimacy which the Botha regime is trying desperately to give itself. We are convinced that new measures will be taken to further isolate it and that political, diplomatic, moral, and material solidarity with the ANC will further increase.

ANC Spokesman Criticizes Accord

EA221316 Addis Ababa Radio Freedom in English to South Africa 1930 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Compatriots, as we all know, last Friday [16 March] the fascist Pretoria regime signed the so-called nonaggression pact with the Government of Mozambique, a pact which among other things is said to be intended to force the Government of Mozambique to stop supporting the national liberation struggle of the oppressed people of South Africa led by their vanguard movement, the ANC. This follows incessant declarations by the fascist regime's spokesman that the ANC and Umkhoto we Sizwe must be crushed inside South Africa itself and even be expelled from the entire region of southern Africa. We asked Comrade Tavo Mbeki, the director of information of the ANC, how the ANC itself sees this consistent (?wide) strategy of the fascists to drive the ANC out of southern Africa now in the wake of the discussions between the Government of Mozambique, as well as the signing of the so-called nonaggression pact.

[Begin Mbeki recording] As you know, the spokesmen of the Pretoria regime have been saying now for a period of time that they are determined to ensure that the ANC is destroyed in South Africa and that the ANC is expelled from the region of southern Africa. And you have seen the actions that they have taken — the attack on our people in Matola in January 1981, the subsequent attacks on our people in Mozambique, the attack on our people on 9 December 1982 in Maseru, the assassinations that have been carried out in Zimbabwe, in Swaziland, and so on.

That is why I am saying that even before the foundation of Frelimo the ANC had already allied and acted together with the patriotic forces in Mozambique and [words indistinct] like Comrade President Samora Machel: When he left Mozambique to join Frelimo outside, he left via South Africa into what was then Buchuanaland — Botswana — and was flown by our people from Botswana to Tanzania. [passage indistinct]

And we know Frelimo as a party which is committed to the liberation not only of Mozambique, but committed to the total liberation of our continent and [words indistinct] we cannot assume that suddenly the Government of Mozambique, the people of Mozambique, are suddenly going to become a different political animal that is turning against the ANC. But the fact of the matter is that the Pretoria regime is demanding or threatening that Frelimo should not be what we knew as Frelimo. They are trying to transform Frelimo into an enemy of ANC, into an enemy of liberation. [end recording]

Comrade Tavo Mbeki reacts to the signing of the so-called nonaggression pact contained in a statement issued in Lusaka, Zambia, last Friday, when the ANC expressed its conviction that this regime, which is dripping from head to toe with the blood of the thousands of people it has murdered throughout southern

Africa, cannot be an architect of justice and peace in our region; he goes on to underscore the (?statement) by the ANC.

[Begin Mbeki recording] Peace in our region must depend, does depend, on the destruction of the apartheid regime and on the transfer of power to the people of South Africa, and it [words indistinct] that peace would come about as a result of the victory of the patriotic forces of South Africa. [end recording]

AZAPO Calls Nkomati Accord 'Battleship Diplomacy'

MB221218 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0818 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Johannesburg, March 22, SAPA — The Nkomati accord is an example of "battleship diplomacy" because the Mozambique Government did not participate of its own free will, but because it was forced into it by the South African Government.

This was said by the AZAPO [Azanian People's Organization] vice president, Mr Saths Cooper, yesterday at a commemoration of the Sharpeville riots in 1960 when 69 people died.

"The treaty is primarily in South Africa's interest, and this is why the Republic uses its economic and military strength to try and force the neighbouring states into similar treaties," he said.

The intentions were not genuine — a decade ago President Samora Machel was referred to as a "terrorist" in South African Government circles, he said.

The president of AZAPO, Mr Lebon Mabasa, said that the Sharpeville riots were "the watershed of the era when negotiation-politics ended and the era that heralded 'revolutionary politics' and the armed struggle."

It buried forever the ideas that a negotiated settlement could be reached between unequals, he said.

"Like the Soweto unrest in 1976, it was not an unfortunate, avoidable tragedy, but the logical result of the racist-capitalistic system" that contained built-in violence by the white minority toward the black majority, he said.

Mr Mabasa made a call not to compromise any principle by cooperating with government-created structures, institutions or positions.

He said AZAPO was the spiritual heritage of the PAC and regarded itself as the embodiment of the black consciousness movement, which was anticommunist, but exclusively black.

Rumpff Commission Recesses After Hearing Testimony

MB221814 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] The Rumpff Commission, which is investigating Swaziland's land claims in KaNgwane, temporarily suspended its activities in Pretoria today after hearing evidence for the past 3 days. Mr Justice Rumpff said before the meeting that the South African Government had to give serious consideration to giving self-governing status to KaNgwane's Legislative Assembly. Alternatively, the government should inform the 850,000 citizens of KaNgwane of all the implications of incorporation. He said that such information should be set out in black and white in a pamphlet printed in both Swazi [as heard] and English and distributed to all those who would be affected by a border judgment.

The chief executive councillor of KaNgwane, Mr Mabuza, said in his testimony before the commission that the South African Government was morally bound through its own legislation to grant KaNgwane self-government. It was erroneously reported yesterday that Mr Mabuza had used the word independence instead of self-government. Mr Mabuza said that an enhanced political status was his government's first requirement for the testing of the will of the Swazi people.

RSA Given Self-Government Challenge

MB221434 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1300 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Justice Rumpff has repeatedly called on the South African Government to show why KaNgwane cannot be given self-governing status. Justice Rumpff made his call at the end of the first public hearing of the Commission set up to examine the question of KaNgwane being ceded to Swaziland. Justice Rumpff, who is chairing the commission, has challenged the government to show why KaNgwane cannot be given self-governing status or to inform KaNgwane's inhabitants of all the implications of incorporation. The commission will meet again when the South African Government representatives respond to the challenge.

Business Leaders Praise Free Market System Proposals

MB221200 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Recommendations of the President's Council Committee for Economic Affairs on the promotion of the free market system in South Africa has evoked wide reaction from business leaders. The recommendations are included in the committee's report, which was submitted by the chairman, Mr (Bram Rabben Weimer), to the council of Cape Town yesterday afternoon. Among the main recommendations in the report are that there should be an active program to encourage entrepreneurship in South Africa; the Economic Advisory Council should be asked to ensure that the practices and activities of state undertakings do not hamper the private sector; and all townships should be supplied with the basic infrastructure and services.

The general manager of the Small Business Information Centers, Dr (Willie Conradie), told our economic news staff that no political dispensation could assure prosperity for future generations if these generations could not reap the benefits of the free market system. He said he could not foresee a prosperous southern Africa within the next 10 or even 100 years if the concept of a free market system was not sold to all race groups. Referring to the promotion of entrepreneurship in South Africa,

Dr Conradie said education was necessary from school level upwards, especially among the blacks. If an organization were to encourage entrepreneurship, it would have to be part of the private sector to be successful.

The Small Business Development Corporation [SBDC] and the black chamber of commerce — the National African Federated Chambers of Commerce [NAFCOC] — have both welcomed the recommendations concerning the promotion of entrepreneurs. A spokesman for the SBDC said red tape had always been a stumbling block in the paths of entrepreneurs. A NAFCOC spokesman, Mr (Si Kutumela), said in Johannesburg that his organization welcomed any move that would help bring blacks into the mainstream of the South African economy.

The chairman of the Works Committee of the Coordinating Committee of Control Boards, Mr Franz van Wyk, has reacted to the recommendation in the report that the efficiency of agricultural control boards should be investigated. He said each and every statutory body should always aim to act in the interest of the public. Mr van Wyk issued a warning that practical thought should first be given to the subject, before an overall free market system for the agricultural sector could be introduced.

The chairman of the Free Market Foundation, Mr (Michael O'Dowd), said arbitrary administration and obstructive legislation was responsible for the serious lack of entrepreneurs. He told our economic news staff that blacks, more than any race group, were affected by obstructive legislation.

Charges Read to Charles Sebe in Ciskei Court

MB210938 Johannesburg SOWETAN in English
14 Mar 84 p 2

[Excerpt] Ciskei's former head of security, Lieutenant General Charles Sebe, appeared in the Zwelitsha Magistrate's Court yesterday on charges of terrorism, intimidation and incitement to public violence.

Mr Sebe, who was detained in July last year, was not asked to plead and the trial was postponed to May 1 for the Supreme Court. He remains in custody.

'Sanctimonious' U.S. Democratic Candidates Decried

MB221840 Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English
16 Mar 84 p 6

[Editorial: "The Democrats"]

[Text] Save us from American Democratic presidential candidates — and from those, like Mr Jimmy Carter, who become president. For these sanctimonious fellows all seem to know how South Africa should run its affairs. And the way we are supposed to run our affairs is by accepting one man, one vote majority rule.

President Carter wanted this. His Vice-President, Mr Mondale, who is now one of the two front-runners for the Democratic nomination, told Mr Vorster in Vienna that this was what the United States Government demanded.

Now we have the Democrats again in full cry about South Africa, hoping, no doubt, to win Negro votes with their anti-South African stance.

Mr Mondale has spelled out specific steps he would consider against South Africa if he became president — a ban on Krugerrand sales in the United States, a ban on further American investments in the Republic, and an extension of the U.S. military embargo to include anything to do with police activities.

Congress may take care of these matters for him, reports from Washington suggest, because all these points are included in legislation expected to come to a vote soon. But one sanction mentioned by Mr Mondale is not part of any pending legislation. This is his threat to stop South African Airways from having landing rights in the United States.

Mr Mondale has also said that he would make certain that South Africa understood that, if it did not make progress on Namibia and apartheid, the United States would be prepared to use sanctions in co-operation with other countries.

Now we have the liberal Senator Gary Hart, who is challenging Mr Mondale for the Democratic nomination, spouting his anti-South African venom and threats. He has stated that he favours full economic sanctions against South Africa unless reforms are made to increase Black political power. "I would lay down a timetable whereby the Government of South Africa had to open up its process to the black majority, with the understanding that if they didn't meet a reasonable timetable then full economic sanctions would be imposed." He also supported, he said, a ban on the sale of Kruggerrands in the United States and the proposed legislation prohibiting bank loans to the South African Government and making equal-employment guidelines mandatory on U.S. corporations operating in South Africa.

There are some observers who console themselves with the thought that much of what presidential contenders say is for electioneering purposes, but that if a man like Mr Mondale or Senator Hart became president, the responsibilities of office, as well as America's strategic needs in our area, would temper his actual policies. In some respects, they will; in the main thrust of policy, they won't.

There are also observers who think our peace initiative will help us to swing Democratic opinion in our favour. They, too, are mistaken. The Democrats do not care whether we have non-aggression pacts with some of our black neighbours; they want black majority rule in South Africa.

Even in these days of reform, there is no prospect of this happening. We shall therefore have to do what we have to do, whatever the Democratic Party thinks.

We hope that President Reagan will win a second term — and he should, provided his health continues to stand up to the pressures of the presidency. But if he does not, and there is a Democratic president, we will be back in the freezer in our relations with the United States.

We are, however, a sovereign country and nobody, not even a Democratic president, can push us around. Which is what Mr Carter found in his period in the White House.

SWAZILAND

Foreign Minister Discusses RSA Links, Trade

MB220920 Mbabane Domestic Service in Siswati 1815 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Excerpts] The minister of foreign affairs, Mr Velaphi Dlamini, today told Parliament that the Swazi delegation that attended the signing of the Nkomati accord had noted that it was the result of the diplomacy in Manzana which was initiated by his late majesty Sobhuza II. As chairman of the multistate conference which he had summoned, Sobhuza stated categorically that even diametrically opposed political systems were capable of reaching agreement through negotiation. The accord is between South Africa and Mozambique.

Responding to questions from the members of Parliament, Mr Dlamini likened the Nkomati agreement to the watering and nurturing of a tree with fruit to be eaten not only by the members of the two countries which signed the agreement, but also by the other southern African countries. Mr Dlamini said he hopes other nations of the world will take a leaf out of the Nkomati agreement and appreciate that there can be no progress without peace. He said by following in the late king's footsteps in the use of dialogue in solving problems, the government even today knows that the Swazi people do not even have a single enemy, because they followed the late king's saying that if he knew that someone claimed to be his enemy, he would confront him and deal with the problem. He said this statement by the late king is the maxim of the government and the entire Swazi nation.

Directing himself to the question of Swaziland's border adjustment with South Africa, he informed the Senate that only today the Rumpff Commission of South Africa was working on this loaded matter after the Swazi nation had furnished it with all the necessary information concerning Ngwavuma and Swazi territory which is supposed to be returned to the Swazi nation. Mr Dlamini said the Swazi nation was not forced to furnish the Rumpff Commission with all this information, and said that it was done by a respectful and independent country, our Swazi nation, which gave a mandate to another respected country, South Africa. Mr Dlamini said that our government has no interest in including other parties in this land issue, except for South Africa.

Responding to another question concerning open trade with South Africa, the minister said South Africa was expected to open up a trade office here in Swaziland. He said one reason we do not have a trade office in South Africa was because we are very close neighbors so that if any problem cropped up, it would be very easy for us to cross the border and discuss that particular problem in a day. The minister said due to financial constraints our government cannot afford to send out commercial attaches and other experts to run trade offices in other countries, and said for the same reason our government cannot afford to open up new diplomatic offices in other countries. The minister said that this made it neccessary for our envoys in countries like Britain, the United States, and Nairobi to be loaded with the work of representing us in other countries in addition to those in which they are based.

Another matter concerning envoys which caused a lot of embarrassment was that of the insurance of envoys and their families. The minister admitted that our envoys were not insured at all, but said that he is pleased that this question was raised by someone in the House of Assembly itself in the presence of the minister without portfolio, Mr Mhambi Mnisi, and the minister of finance. He said they will both accompany him when he goes to present this matter to the prime minister and when the matter is thrashed out by ministers in finding a solution to the matter.

The minister was also asked what the Swazi nation gained from being a member of the different international organizations. The minister replied that we gain a great deal from the memberships, so much so that even the gaining of our independence was due to the support by those very international organizations. He told the members of the Senate that just as a bird builds its nest with feathers from other birds, in the same way one benefits from being friendly with others. The minister also announced that the government has paid all of its dues to all the organizations in which it is a member, except for the OAU. He said he is pleased to announce to the world that part of that debt, which dates back to fiscal year 1977-78, has been paid with the hope that the outstanding debt will be updated next year.

Directing himself to the question of chances of promotion for the staff in his ministry, apart from recalling them home or transferring them to other ministries, the minister said that the government and the new minister of public service were still looking at recommendations made by the Experts Committee. It suggested that we follow the examples of other countries which have a better organized working structure which shows how the workers ascend the organizational ladder within their own ministry before they move into another ministry. He said this system is designed in this way so that the employees will know how far they can go while remaining in their ministries and being promoted within it so as to avoid being transferred to other ministries. He said this problem of promotions has also caused a stumbling block for the workers of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in that they also need to be transferred to other ministries before they are promoted.

Mr Dlamini said that what causes our envoys working abroad to stay there for more than 3 years was the lack of career diplomats. The minister said this matter was so grave that at times it is necessary to transfer those envoys sent abroad to other countries at the end of their 3-year period, all because of the need for career diplomats.

On the matter of budget allocations, the minister of public service, Mhlangano Matsebula, said that those in authority in his ministry will now look into the question of which ministry the head of the civil service should be placed in, because government workers fall under the authority of the prime minister and because of this there is a conflict with what his ministry does.

Algerian Minister Urges Diplomatic Relations
MB212021 Mbabane Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] The Algerian veteran's affairs minister, Mr Djelloul Nemiche, today delivered a special message to her majesty the Queen Mother and Regent Ntombi from the Algerian president, Chadli Bendjedid. The message was delivered to the prime minister, Prince Bhekimpi, at Parliament House.

During their short discussion, the Algerian minister expressed his government's sincere condolences to the Swazi Government following the recent cyclone which left many dead and others homeless. Mr Nemiche then asked the prime minister that diplomatic relations between the two sister states be established at ambassadorial level. The Algerian minister also praised Swaziland for the important part she played in encouraging South Africa and Mozambique to get into a dialogue which resulted in the signing of the Nkomati accord between the two ideologically polarized countries.

In reply the prime minister, Prince Bhekimpi, said it was Swaziland's prayer that peace and stability should prevail in southern Africa. He said the dialogue between South Africa and Mozambique was initiated by the late King Sobhuza II. Likewise, he said, the kingdom prays that Morocco and the Western Sahara should come to a negotiating table to solve their differences like South Africa and Mozambique. Turning to diplomatic relations between Swaziland and Algeria, Prince Bhekimpi promised that the matter will be looked into by the head of state and the cabinet.

The Algerian minister was leading a 3-man delegation, including the Algerian ambassador, to Mozambique. Before seeing the prime minister, the Algerian minister for veteran's affairs called on the minister for foreign affairs, Mr R.V. Dlamini. The Algerian delegation has left the country for Mozambique.

ZAMBIA

President Kaunda Hosts Dinner for Prince Charles
MB230824 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] His Excellency President Kaunda has expressed the hope that the Commonwealth Development Corporation, CDC, will help Zambia expand her copper production. Dr Kaunda said that Zambia was anxious to increase her copper production despite the fact that the mineral was at the moment not earning much on the world market.

The president was speaking at a State House dinner he hosted for the visiting heir to the British throne, Prince Charles. The British prince is in Zambia to inspect projects funded by the Commonwealth Development Corporation, for which he is president. Dr Kaunda also expressed great admiration for Prince Charles' personal humanity and concern for the well-being of humanity, describing him as a true humanist.

Prince Charles in return expressed great admiration for President Kaunda's efforts in helping to bring peace to southern Africa in the face of many difficulties. He said he was also pleased to note that Britain could help Zambia exploit agricultural potential through the CDC.

Prince Charles is meanwhile scheduled to leave for Chingola this morning where he will inspect one of the Corporation's [word indistinct] projects. According to a program released from Chingola, the prince is primarily going to inspect the tailings leach plant whose construction is financed by CDC. Apart from the leach plant, he will also tour the Nchanga open pit and its support plant and later meet members of the British community resident in the town. Prince Charles is also expected to leave for Livingstone today for a 2-day visit to the tourist town. During the 2 days, he will visit the museum and the Victoria Falls. He will also attend a reception which will be hosted by Southern Province Central Committee member Mungoni Liso. Prince Charles, who flew into the country from Tanzania on Wednesday, leaves for Zimbabwe tomorrow morning from Livingstone.

ZIMBABWE

Mugabe States 'Full Support' for Nkomati Accord
MB220830 Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL in English 22 Mar 84 p 1

[By Andre Viljoen]

[Text] Harare — Zimbabwe fully supported the nonaggression accord between South Africa and Mozambique because it believed it would benefit the entire region, the Zimbabwean prime minister, Mr Robert Mugabe, said in Harare yesterday. However, he did not see the need for a similar accord between Zimbabwe and South Africa, though there were signs that through a strategy of unprovoked aggression, South Africa was "trying to get us into that situation in which Mozambique finds itself."

In a joint interview — his first including a South African journalist in 20 months — Mr Mugabe told me and a Dutch and Canadian journalist that while he understood why the African National Congress was disenchanted by frontline states' support for the accord, the independent black-ruled states were simply "too weak" to provide the ANC with the external bases it needed.

He said Zimbabwe, in particular, stood "to benefit immensely" from the pact because Mozambican Resistance Movement activities, including at least one attack a week on railway lines used for moving Zimbabwean exports and imports, had been "ruining our economy."

The accord was aimed at securing maximum peace in the region and did not constitute a new acceptance of apartheid.

He said the ANC was entitled to its viewpoint that the attainment of "freedom and democracy in South Africa" would be delayed unless countries in the region granted it their full support and the right to establish bases.

"We ourselves would have felt like them had we been the party affected. That's only natural. But we (Zimbabwe) have also

pointed out to the ANC that we are a very vulnerable country and that we haven't got the necessary defence to withstand South Africa's incursions should those be mounted against us.

"We pointed out that we feel we can offer the ANC maximum support materially and politically through the Organisation of African Unity, as we have always done, and that if we became weaker than we are, that even that support would not be forthcoming."

The ANC stood to gain more if the frontline states were able to remain politically and economically viable, which would not be the case if they provoked South African attack, Mr Mugabe said.

On his attitude towards violent change in South Africa he said: "That is a matter for the people of South Africa, their liberation movements and their leadership, and we feel that if whatever form of struggle they decide to undertake is moral, justified and has the support of the people of South Africa, then who are we to deny them moral support?"

He supported the principle of an economic constellation of southern African states, but said he would not support South African participation in such a venture, until it had a "sufficiently democratic" internal political system.

He had not yet studied the text of the conditional offer by Angola and Cuba to withdraw Cuba troops from Angola, but said he had long been aware that Angola was prepared to start withdrawing Cubans on condition South Africa also withdrew its troops.

A South African troop withdrawal from Angola would be proof of its sincerity and would go "a long way towards ensuring the success of the negotiations."

11 Dissidents Said Killed in Matabeleland, Midlands

MB230807 Harare Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] The minister of state responsible for security, Comrade Emmerson Munangagwa, has disclosed that security forces killed 11 dissidents early this month in Matabeleland South and the Midlands. In an interview yesterday, Comrade Munangagwa said the dissidents were killed in Mberengwa, south of Zvishavane, and Zhombe and Silobela, both north of Gweru, in the 2d week since the antidissident operations began. Another 30 were captured in January and February. All those captured or killed were members of either ZAPU or Super-ZAPU.

Comrade Munangagwa said all weapons captured were South African. He said Matabeleland South, which has been under (?pressure) since early last (?week), is the country's most thoughtfully served area in terms of food distribution, and that no one had died of hunger.

Meanwhile, the governor of Matabeleland North, Comrade Daniel Ngwenya, yesterday called on the people of Matabeleland to unite and stop the dissidents' activities. Speaking during a familiarization tour of (Eskoveli) Training Centre, Comrade Ngwenya said the dissidents are destroying the country, which many people died for.

Former Army Officer Discusses Rusape Mass Graves

MB221146 Harare Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] A former Rhodesian Army intelligence officer, now living in South Africa, has confirmed that the shallow graves discovered at Rusape recently are of former combatants. The man, whose name was not given, was quoted in the *PRETORIA NEWS* of 13 March as saying Rusape was used as a burial ground for people killed by security forces during operations against the [words indistinct] eastern districts of Zimbabwe.

The former officer told the *PRETORIA NEWS* that from 1972 onwards anybody killed in the eastern districts was taken to be buried at the Rusape joint operations command. He said captured guerrillas were also taken to Rusape for identification, fingerprinting, photographing, and their [word indistinct] were also made [words indistinct]. After this they were shot and their bodies buried in mass graves.

Following an appeal by the minister of information, posts, and telecommunication, Comrade Nathan Shamuyarira, more people have come forward to offer more information about mass graves.

Hwange Power Station Investigation To Begin

MB221130 Harare Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Investigations into the cause of the explosion at the Hwange Stage Two power station early this month will begin on Monday next week. The minister of state for energy resources and developments, Comrade Oliver Munyaradzi, announced yesterday that the investigating committee will be chaired by a senior [words indistinct], with representatives from the government and the Electricity Supply Commission. He said international experts in high pressure boiler plant construction are already on the site investigating the cause of the blast. In the meantime, operations in generator [word indistinct] remain closed in the best interest of personnel.

(?Two) more people have died, bringing to four the number of people killed in the boiler explosion on the 7th of this month. Comrade Munyaradzi said preliminary investigations show that the explosion might have been caused by a technical disturbance.